

U.N. experts in Iraq say inspections useful

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — The head of the biggest U.N. arms inspection team to visit Iraq said Monday a third day of field work had been useful but declined to say what the experts had found.

"They (inspections) are useful," Nikita Smidovich told reporters in Baghdad. "That is why we are here."

But the tight-tipped Smidovich refused to be more specific about what his 50-member team had discovered, saying he was sending a daily report to the U.N. special commission in New York which is charged with the elimination of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

"Our normal procedure is that we have to report everything to New York on what is happening," he said.

"We visited several facilities. We're in the process of collecting information. We'll continue to do that," Mr. Smidovich added.

The major task of Mr. Smidovich's mission is to verify intelligence reports that Iraq may still have hundreds of Scud missiles left over from an arsenal of 819 either bought from the Soviet Union or developed domestically in the form of extended-range variants — the Al Hussein, Al Abbas and Sejeel.

Iraq fired some of these missiles during its eight-year war with Iran and the 1991 war over Kuwait.

Mr. Smidovich said some of the information he has gathered so far was obtained from discussions

with his Iraqi counterparts.

"We sometimes get (information) from documents, sometimes oral discussions," the Russian expert said.

Asked whether the documents were related to Iraq's Soviet-made Scud missiles, he said: "I would not comment on that."

U.N. inspectors have verified the destruction of all Iraq's declared ballistic missile material including 150 Scuds, dozens of launchers and launch pads and all known production equipment.

Iraq, which is obliged under the Gulf war ceasefire terms to scrap missiles with a range greater than 150 kilometres, and means of producing them, says it has nothing more to declare.

U.N. ballistic missile experts held meetings with Iraqi missile experts after Monday's inspections, triggering rumours that they have come across vital information that could lead to new discoveries. There was, however, no confirmation on their findings.

As Mr. Smidovich spoke, U.N. staff hauled large cardboard containers into the Sheraton Hotel that looked as if they had been filled and sealed in a hurry.

Mr. Smidovich's 50-member team is the 45th to come to Baghdad and the largest so far.

Over the past year, U.N. experts have overseen the dismantling of much of Iraq's nuclear programme and destroyed missiles and chemical weapons as well as the research centres and factories associated with them.

UAE wants peaceful end to dispute with Tehran; Bahrain rejects Qatari move

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has said it wants to solve peacefully a dispute with Iran over three strategic Gulf islands, using more conciliatory language than it has recently on the issue.

In other Gulf disputes, Bahrain Monday repeated its call on Qatar that the two countries jointly take their border quarrel to the International Court at the Hague.

And Saudi Arabia again pressed Qatar to help select an international company to demarcate their disputed frontier, after a border clash last month in which two people were killed.

The UAE made its latest statement after a meeting between its Foreign Minister Rashid Abdullah and Arab League Secretary-General Esmat Abdul Meguid late Sunday.

"The UAE and the Arab League affirmed the wish to Arab states to solve the dispute with Iran by peaceful means in accordance with international agreements," it said.

Iran recently claimed full sovereignty over the island of Abu Musa in the Strait of Hormuz and reiterated its claim to two other small islands, the Greater and Lesser Tunbs. Tehran's claim outraged the Arab World and was denounced by the Arab League.

The latest UAE call omitted the strong language Abu Dhabi has used in recent statements on the dispute.

It made no reference to the UAE's demand that Iranian forces withdraw from the Tunbs, which they have occupied for two decades; and it did not threaten to take the dispute to the U.N. Security Council, as it has in the past.

Diplomatic sources said Syria, which has good relations both with the Gulf Arab countries and with Iran, would start a second mediation bid between the two countries. They spoke on condition of anonymity.

In the central Gulf, Bahrain's dispute with Qatar over small reefs in the waters between the two countries has flared up periodically.

Last year, Qatar spurned Saudi mediation and went to the World Court in the Hague. Bahrain has been insisting that should have been a joint application.

In a statement Monday, the Bahrain Foreign Ministry reiterated that call. For the first time, the ministry also spelt out clearly that Bahrain wants a full delineation of territorial waters — not just a decision over custody of the reefs.

"The difference...is not over islands but it is a case of defining the maritime borders," it said.

It said Qatar's petition to the International Court of Justice over the territorial dispute was a waste of time.

A Foreign Ministry official said his country had received from the Hague Qatar's response to Bahrain's rejection of its request to the World Court to decide the dispute and that the Manama government would respond soon.

"Bahrain still has the same position that all points of disagreement...should be taken to the International Court of Justice through signing an agreement between the two countries so as to put the issue on the right path," the Gulf News Agency (GNA) quoted the official as saying.

He said Qatar's lone request to the court had led to side debates rather than "to ways of settling the main issue of disagreement between the two countries."

Bahrain rejected Qatar's unilateral application on June 11 and reiterated calls for Doha to submit a joint petition in line with a December 1990 agreement mediated by Saudi Arabia.

Qatar went alone to the court in July 1991 asking it to decide its claim on a number of barren but potentially oil rich islands, sandbanks and reefs between the two countries.

Some lie close to the Qatari mainland but are controlled by Bahrain under a border demarcation decided when Britain handled the foreign affairs of the two states during the 1930s.

The World Court began assessing its own competence to judge the issue in June but Gulf-based diplomats say it is unlikely to reach a decision on even this step before 1995.

Afghan government offers to step down

KABUL (R) — Afghanistan's interim Islamic government said Monday it would step down in favour of new rulers chosen by a council expected to meet next month.

The announcement on official Kabul Radio came as former communist militia began leaving the capital as part of a ceasefire agreement between the government and dissident Mujahideen guerrillas.

"The Islamic government is ready to transfer power to a new leadership which will be appointed by the Hal-o-Aqd council," the broadcast quoted a government statement as saying.

The statement gave no date for the council, which must be held when President Burhanuddin Rabbani's four-month term ends on Oct. 28. It said only that the council would meet on schedule and urged all Mujahideen groups to make it a success.

Some Mujahideen leaders have voiced fears Rabbani would delay the power transfer, a move that could precipitate more fighting with rival Mujahideen parties.

Amid shouts of "Long live Islam", the first batch of former communist militia flew out of Kabul after months of demands by Mujahideen chiefs that they should withdraw.

"If the withdrawal continues and every day big numbers leave the city, there will be peace in Kabul," Syed Aziz, delegate of the fundamentalist Hezb-e-Islami on a commission trying to restore peace in Kabul.

"Long live Islam, God is great," shouted 200 militia troops as they ran across the tarmac of Kabul airport. "We hate war, we want peace."

The former communist fighters flew out aboard two military transport planes to the northern stronghold of their powerful Uzbek leader, General Rashid Dostan, in Mazar-i-Sharif.

"We are carrying out the orders of the Defence Ministry," said a militia general who declined to comment further.

The Afghan capital erupted in an explosion of sound as jubilant Mujahideen celebrated the militia departure by firing volleys of tracer bullets into the night sky.

Hezb-e-Islami leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar launched a

blistering rocket bombardment of Kabul last August, in which more than 2,500 civilians were killed, to back his demand for the eviction of the militia.

The defection of the militia to the Mujahideen brought down the government of former communist President Najibullah last April and precipitated the entry of the Mujahideen to Kabul. Mr. Hekmatyar brands them as traitors.

The withdrawal of communist forces from the government army in Kabul as well as those who joined Mr. Hekmatyar's armies was stipulated in the ceasefire negotiated by the peace commission to end the fighting in August.

Peace commission leader Shomali Khan welcomed the pullout, saying: "If this process continues we assure Kabul residents there will be no more fighting."

Mr. Hekmatyar had agreed to disarm any ex-communists found in his forces, Mr. Shomali said.

Mr. Rabbani's coalition delayed the pullout, saying the militia had been absorbed into its army.

The Defence Ministry says there are 2,500 militia in Kabul, but some Mujahideen parties say the numbers are much higher.

"The decision to start withdrawing the northern forces was taken for a combination of political, military and security reasons," said General Rahim Wardak, the recently appointed army chief of staff.

He did not rule out a future role for the Uzbek militia, widely hated in Kabul where residents accuse them of looting and rape.

"There will be a place for all nationalities...in the new Islamic army," said Gen. Wardak, who appeared at the airport dressed for the first time in his new uniform of army fatigues with red epaulettes and a black beret.

Noorullah Emad, representative of Mr. Rabbani's fundamentalist Jamiat-e-Islami party to an election commission, said the decision to remove the militia had been taken by Mr. Rabbani and Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Masoud.

Mr. Emad denied that they had agreed to withdraw the former communist only after intense pressure from other groups.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Bomb damages Israeli troop carrier

MARIYOUN, Lebanon (R) — A guerrilla bomb damaged an Israeli troop carrier in the Jewish state's "security zone" in South Lebanon Tuesday, security sources said. No one was hurt when the roadside bomb exploded as the vehicle passed between the villages of Markaba and Tallouneh, he said. Some 1,000 Israeli troops and 3,000 allied Lebanese militiamen hold the 15 kilometres deep zone set up in 1985 to block guerrilla raids on the Jewish state.

Captor of Saudi ambassador jailed

SANAA (R) — A Yemeni court Monday sentenced Abdullah Ali Jameel Al Mattari to three years in prison for holding Saudi Arabia's ambassador to Sanaa captive for \$1 million ransom. A Yemeni policeman disguised as a servant overpowered Mr. Mattari and freed Ambassador Ali Mohammad Al Qutaidi who was held hostage for 18 hours last April. Mr. Mattari's lawyer said he would appeal the court's verdict.

Greece seizes Turkish boat in Aegean

ANKARA (R) — A Turkish boat carrying yacht race spectators was arrested by a Greek patrol boat in the Aegean on Monday and towed to the island of Kos, Turkish Television reported. Those aboard, contacting the mainland by radio, said the incident took place in international waters but they were accused of entering Greek waters, the television said. It said the seven captured 11 people, four of them journalists. They were watching the Bodrum Yacht Cup.

Turkish premier to visit Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (R) — Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel will pay two-day official visit to Pakistan from Oct. 24, the official AFP news agency said Monday. Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan visited Turkey last month.

Greece and Turkey to meet on Iraqi refugees

AITHENS (R) — Greece and Turkey will start talks Wednesday to try to resolve disputes over illegal refugees, Greece said Monday. The initial focus of the talks will be a group of Iraqi refugees stranded aboard a ship between the two countries for the past 13 days. Seventy-seven Iraqis arrived at Greece's Aegean island of Kos on a Turkish boat two weeks ago. Nine refugees from the ship were taken to hospital but Athens refused to accept the others and tried to send them to Turkey on a Greek vessel. Turkey refused, then entry and sent the refugees back. Since then the ship has remained in international waters between Kos and the Turkish coast, with Greek and Turkish navy ships nearby. Twenty-nine Iraqis drowned last month when a boat carrying them from Turkey capsized off the Greek island of Chios near the Turkish coast. Greek officials say hundreds of Iraqis and Kurds have fled to Greek islands from Turkey this year.

Iran says saboteurs sent by Iraq

NICOSIA (R) — Iran has arrested a number of Iranians and Iraqis sent into Iran on bombing missions by the Iraqi secret police, Tehran Radio said Tuesday. It named an Iranian and an Iraqi among those arrested and said Iranian security forces were hunting down other agents responsible for a recent spate of bombings in Iran. It said Qassem Mohammad Ali Bayani, an Iraqi, said in a confession that the Baghdad secret police had sent him to the secret police branch in Baghdad, northeast of the Iraqi capital. "There is a man named Moqaddas Robb Hussein trained him and he was given bombs to plant in Tehran," it said. An Iraqi secret police officer known as Abu Omar commissioned another man named Hedayat Fatahi, an Iranian name, to take bombs to plant in the west Iranian city of Kermanshah, formerly Bakhtaran, the radio added. It said another man with an Iranian name, Mohammad Javad Saberi Fakhreghazi, was killed when the Tehran bazaar of Thursday exploded in a guest-house near the Tehran bazaar of Thursday. The radio did not give the total number of people arrested. In September the Iranian news agency IRNA quoted Intelligence Minister Ali Fallahian as saying a number of saboteurs sent across the border by Iraq had been arrested. Several bombs have exploded since, including one near the shrine of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini on Oct. 11. The Iraqi-based Iranian opposition group Mujahideen-e-Khalq said its supporters planted that bomb.

Gunmen kill PLO officer in Lebanon

SIDON (R) — Gunmen killed an officer in the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in an attack on a cafe in South Lebanon Tuesday, security sources said. A Lebanese civilian sitting nearby was also wounded, they said. The officer, Lieutenant Mohammad Al Attal of the mainstream PLO group Fatah, was killed instantly when the two gunmen opened fire with machineguns in the old quarter of Sidon. The sources said Al Attal, the fifth Palestinian guerrilla killed in a week, was the victim of a power struggle between Fatah and the Fatah Revolutionary Council (FRC) group. They said Al Attal had defected from the FRC to join Fatah and escaped an assassination attempt several months ago. The two groups have been fighting since late last year for control of the Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon.

Turkey, Australia agree on closer ties

ANKARA (R) — Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans visited war memorials from the 1915 Gallipoli campaign in Turkey Tuesday after agreeing to expand trade with Turkey and to consult on policy more frequently. A spokesman for the Australian embassy said Mr. Evans and Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin had decided the two countries should hold annual political consultations and increase trade now worth \$200 million a year. Mr. Evans told his hosts that Australia recognised what he called Turkey's prominent stabilising role in a tense region stretching from the Balkans to the Middle East and Central Asia. Mr. Cetin said Turkey would sign the chemical weapons convention prepared by the Geneva-based Convention on Disarmament and would apply to join the 22-nation Australia Group, which is promoting national export controls in line with the convention. The embassy spokesman said the two ministers had discussed cooperation in mining, agriculture, education and transport.

Document defending Iraq aid called flawed — report

LOS ANGELES (R) — A U.S. Department of Agriculture report issued in recent months by the Bush administration to defend its pre-war aid to Iraq was known to be flawed before it was released in 1990, the Los Angeles Times reported Tuesday.

A senior federal investigator cited the deficiencies when he tried to delay publication of the report, which was released after pressure from the administration, the newspaper said.

The Department of Agriculture report arose from an inquiry into allegations that Iraq had missed U.S.-backed loans.

Records show the federal official complained the report represented an incomplete and "rosy" picture of Iraq's "abuse" of the loan programme, which included paying bribes to U.S. exporters and possibly trading food for arms, the Times reported.

The official warned that releasing the report could embarrass the administration, it said.

But, after pressure from President George Bush's national security adviser, Brent Scowcroft, the Department of Agriculture released the report essentially unchanged, according to the newspaper.

The report said the department's internal auditors had uncovered an evidence Iraq had traded goods bought with U.S. loans for weapons and did not suspend its aid to Baghdad.

"The administration's investigation of Iraqi abuses was a write-wash at best," Senator Patrick Leahy, chairman of the Senate Agriculture Department, which has been investigating the Iraqi loan guarantees, told the Times.

The latest report casting doubt on the accuracy of the Department of Agriculture document follows questions about a criminal investigation into a \$5 billion loan scheme involving Iraq and the Atlanta branch of Italy's Banca Nazionale del Lavoro (BNL). In the final weeks of the presidential campaign, Democrats have accused the administration of a coverup in the BNL case and White House officials have denied it.

The Department of Agriculture

inquiry that led to the report was initiated in response to evidence uncovered in the BNL investigation, the newspaper said.

When federal agents raided BNL's Atlanta branch in August 1989, they found evidence of \$5 billion in illegal loans to Iraq. Nearly \$2 billion had been guaranteed by the Department of Agriculture to promote U.S. farm exports, the Times said.

In April 1990, a team of Department of Agriculture internal auditors interviewed Iraqi officials in Baghdad and examined documents indicating possible misuse of loans, the Times reported.

But the documents were in Arabic and never were translated.

All eight Democrats on the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee Monday formally asked Attorney General William Barr for an independent counsel to investigate the U.S. government's handling of the BNL loans to Iraq.

Mr. Barr has 30 days to reply to the request under provisions of the independent counsel law, which expires on Dec. 15.

"We believe that you should seek appointment of an independent counsel to investigate the possible obstruction of justice that have occurred by officials of the Justice Department, FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation) and CIA (Central Intelligence Agency)," the eight Senate Democrats said in a letter to Mr. Barr.

Mr. Barr on Friday named a former federal judge to review how the case was handled and report back to him, but the Democrats said an independent investigation was needed since the Department of Justice, FBI and CIA were involved.

The CIA recently admitted it sent misleading information about the material it had on the BNL case to the federal prosecutor in Atlanta handling the case.

The letter to Mr. Barr was signed by Judiciary Committee Chairman Joseph Biden and committee members Edward Kennedy, Howard Metzenbaum, Patrick Leahy, Paul Simon, Dennis DeConcini, Howell Heflin and Herbert Kohl, all Democrats.

French 'rice for Somalia' programme draws criticism

PARIS (Agencies) — Relief experts, opposition politicians, farmers and teachers Monday criticised a government programme to collect packets of rice from French schoolchildren to help combat famine in Somalia.

The Research and Information Centre for Development, which represents 50 humanitarian groups, said the "rice for Somalia" programme planned Tuesday in schools nationwide was an "illusion" that failed to take into account logistical problems in violence-ravaged Somalia.

"U.N. peacekeeping troops appear practically impotent and delivery of food currently is blocked," the centre said.

"In such conditions, how can we lead our children to believe that the 6,000 to 10,000 tonnes of rice to be collected will reach its destination?" the centre asked in an open letter to the programme's sponsors, Education Minister Jack Lang and Health Minister Bernard Kouchner.

The centre said the programme was "an illusion to disguise the international community's inability to stop the fighting in Somalia."

It suggested that schoolchildren write to world political leaders demanding that more be done to resolve the crisis.

Mr. Lang said the programme — conducted at 74,000 schools — is a "gesture of solidarity which will teach our children about this country."

The rice is to be loaded aboard

postal service trucks by high school students and teachers, and taken to Somalia by ship from Marseille. The cargo is expected to arrive about Nov. 20.

Teachers of the Workers Force Labour Federation, in a statement, said the Socialist government "shouldn't make students bear responsibility for the fate of Somalia's people, nor force school personnel to participate in a charity operation."

Rural Coordination, a farmers' coalition, said France could have sent nine times more food for the same price if it had used French wheat rather than rice imported from Asia and the United States.

"It troubles us deeply that parents have been pressured to buy rice from abroad at a time when the Americans are waging a trade war to destroy Europe's agriculture," the group said.

Robert Pandraud, a legislator of the conservative Rally for the Republic, said he has asked Premier Pierre Berengery why rice had been chosen.

"Given the difficulties of the French farming and flour industries, it would have been better for our trade balance if we'd asked our children to bring French wheat or flour," Mr. Pandraud said.

A French Communist Party official, Francis Wurtz, said the government should follow its "highly limited" initiative with a national debate on the global food crisis.

Germany has suspended its aid flights to Mogadishu after a cargo plane was hit by gunfire in the Somali capital, an air force spokesman said Monday.

He said no one was injured in the incident Saturday and the plane returned safely to Mombasa, in Kenya, where relief flights are restarted.

The spokesman said bullet holes were found in the plane's fuselage after it landed in Mombasa.

"It is unclear how this happened. The pilot did not notice anything during" the flight, he told Reuters.

He said Germany had suspended flights to Mogadishu but would continue flying aid to other famine-hit destinations in Somalia.

Germany has delivered around 1,400 tonnes of aid to Somalia, racked by civil war and drought, since Aug. 25 as part of an international effort to help the East African nation's starving people.

Care official named

The head of Care's American division was appointed Monday to oversee international humanitarian aid organisations in Somalia, three days after the head of an affiliated group criticized U.N. handling of the crisis.

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operational manager of the U.N.'s 100-day relief plan for Somalia, where at least 100,000 people have died and two million more are at risk of starving. Dr. Johnston is president and chief executive officer of Care USA, the American arm of the world's largest private relief organisation.

On Friday, Malcolm Fraser, head of Care International and a former Australian prime minister, said in Nairobi, Kenya, that an inadequate United Nations response is threatening international efforts to save Somalia's starving millions.

The U.N. plan to provide relief could founder because of a lack of security and strong diplomacy, Mr. Fraser told a news conference.

Speaking in Kenya's capital after a four-day visit to Somalia, Mr. Fraser said that "unless security improves, much of that plan will fall down. And unless diplomatic efforts are strengthened, it may all fall down."

He also urged "a more coordinated, better focused" international aid programme for Somalia.

Dr. Johnston's appointment appears to be part of the effort to improve the situation. A U.N. press release said he was named "to expedite the effective implementation of the United Nations 100 day action programme."

Dozens of private U.N. and governmental organisations are shipping food, medicine and other supplies to Somalia.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 Documentary
19:00 News in French
19:15 De Cirque
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Saved by the Bell
21:00 Wednesday forum
21:30 Cheddo
22:00 News in English
22:30 Bangkok Hilton

PRAYER TIMES

06:28 Fajr
07:57 Sunrise
11:21 Dhuhr
14:34 Asr
17:05 Maghrib
18:22 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terzian Church Tel. 622366

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

A drop in temperatures will take place and winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Amman, winds will be northwesterly moderate and seas calm.

CHURCHES

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 14/27
Aqaba 19/30
Deserts 11/29
Jordan Valley 18/31
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 31, Aqaba 32. Humidity readings: Amman 20 per cent, Aqaba 34 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Mohammed Al Sirvi 732056
Dr. Basim Qaddumi 64024
Dr. Hassan Mansour 750197
Dr. Yousef Sammour 615648
First pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778236
Al Azem pharmacy 637032
Nairon pharmacy 626762
Al Salam pharmacy 630730
St. Joseph pharmacy 644943
Samir pharmacy 631660
Nairon pharmacy 626762
Najla pharmacy 847632

EMERGENCIES

Dr. Ali Al Omari 272032
Al Sirvi pharmacy 273525
ZARQA:
Dr. Tariq Hijazi 985445
Rasul pharmacy 951119

HOSPITALS

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department

661111
Civil Defence Emergency 690341
Rescue 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire

Crown Prince meets Ghali while Princess tours school

NEW YORK (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan who is presently in the United States met in New York Monday with members of the Jordanian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks and conducted a comprehensive assessment of the previous six rounds of negotiations. The Crown Prince reviewed with the delegation items on the agenda and Jordan's views for the attainment of a just and durable peace.

Prince Hassan stressed the need for continued coordination with the other Arab parties to the peace talks with the purpose of reaching a comprehensive settlement on all fronts. The meeting comes on the eve of the resumption of the peace process in Washington due to begin Wednesday.

In a separate development, Crown Prince Hassan met in New York with U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali and reviewed the outcome of the peace process in its multilateral phase.

The two reviewed the general situation in areas of unrest around the world and the role of the U.N. peacekeeping forces. Dr. Ghali praised Jordan's position, voicing his appreciation of the Kingdom's contributions to various U.N. peacekeeping missions. Dr. Ghali later hosted a lunch in honour of Prince Hassan.

Meanwhile, Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath toured Windsor School and Stephen Geymour School which offer special education to students with dyslexia.

The Princess was accompanied by Dr. Judith Hockman, a specialist in dyslexia, and inspected modern facilities for teaching the children. Princess Sarvath is chairperson of the board of trustees of the Young Women Muslim Association which runs training programmes for teachers dealing with children suffering from dyslexia.

Arafat honours journalist

AMMAN (J.T.) — Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Yasser Arafat Sunday conferred on Jordanian journalist Sultan Al Hattab the Jerusalem Shield in a special ceremony held in his honor at Mr. Arafat's office in Tunisia.

The ceremony, which was attended by several Jordanian journalists and members of the PLO Executive Committee, was held following the conclusion of the Palestine Central Council meetings in the Tunisian capital.

The shield was presented to Mr. Hattab in appreciation of his services to the Palestinian question and his courage in defending its cause, in line with the shield's citation which was read at the ceremony.

Mr. Hattab, a native of Hebron in the West Bank, earlier received a distinguished medal from His Majesty King Hussein for his services in the field of journalism.

He was editor-in-chief of Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily and he is currently a columnist in the leading Jordanian newspaper, Al Ra'i.

Last year, Mr. Hattab was dismissed from the Jordan Press Association (JPA) for talking to the Israeli media at the opening session of the Middle East peace conference in Madrid.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Cabinet approves project with Chile and EC

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet met Tuesday and agreed to renew the cultural cooperation programme between Jordan and Chile for the years 1993-95. The programme aims to enhance relations between the two countries in educational, scientific, cultural, sports, health, social and information fields. The Cabinet also approved the Water Authority of Jordan receiving a JD 20 million loan from the Social Security Corporation or from commercial banks and it agreed the establishment of a unified European cultural centre in Amman with the aim of gathering the cultural centres of the European Community's (EC) member states in one building.

Arab philosophers hold conference

AMMAN (Petra) — The Third Arab Philosophy Conference opened Tuesday at the University of Jordan with the participation of a number of Arab philosophers and intellectuals. The 12-day conference, which is organised by the Arab Philosophy Society, will discuss specialised philosophical issues. University of Jordan President Fawzi Gharaibeh said in an opening address at the conference that the most important issues in life nowadays are those of logic, democracy, human rights, the crisis of values, the role of sciences, freedom and modernisation. Dr. Gharaibeh called on the participants in the conference to draw up a new contemporary Arab philosophy which can cope with such developments.

Russian delegation arrives in Amman

IRBID (Petra) — A Russian parliamentary delegation arrived in Amman Tuesday on a three-day visit to Jordan during which it will hold talks with Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Abdul Latif Arabiyat and senior Jordanian officials. The delegation was received at Al Ramtha border post by Lower House Deputy Speaker Abdul Karim Al Dughni and other officials.

U.N. Day to be celebrated at RCC

AMMAN (Petra) — The United Nations' Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) will organise in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other U.N. agencies a celebration at the Royal Cultural Centre on Thursday to mark the U.N. Day. The celebration will include an address by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and a statement by U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali which will be read by ESCWA Executive Secretary Tayseer Abdul Jabbar.

JCC distributes wheat and barley seeds

AMMAN (Petra) — The Madaba Agricultural Machinery Station of the Jordan Cooperation Organisation (JCO) has started distributing improved wheat and barley seeds to farmers and cooperative societies in Madaba district. Director of the station Awad Al Hishah said a tonne of improved wheat seeds would be sold to farmers at JD 140 and a tonne of barley seeds at JD 100. Mr. Hishah said the station had also started to receive application forms by farmers wishing to join a project on increasing seed production.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of paintings and sculptures by artist Nadeem at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of oil and watercolour paintings entitled "Concepts in the Structure of Space" by Dr. George Sayegh at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery — (Open 10 a.m. till 5 p.m.)
- ★ Poster exhibition of the Beatles at the British Council.
- ★ Exhibition by Jordanian artist Khaled Khris at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Ibrahim Al Shalabi at Alla Art Gallery.

DEBATE

- ★ Videos of the debate between U.S. Presidential candidates George Bush, Bill Clinton and Ross Perot at the USIS auditorium, the American Embassy (11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. and rerun at 4 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.)

FILM

- ★ Film entitled "Charlots of Fire" at the British Council — 7 p.m.



PRINCESS BASMA OPENS UNIVERSITY NURSERY.

Her Royal Highness Princess Basmah Tuesday visited the University of Jordan where she inaugurated a children's nursery for university employees. The nursery is part of an on-going project being implemented jointly by the university and the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF). The Princess toured the premises, which will offer day services to 62 young children brought in daily by female employees. Later Princess Basmah discussed with University President Fawzi Gharaibeh the level of cooperation between QAF and the University of Jordan, especially in carrying out social and voluntary projects in Jordan.

EC aids Kingdom's irrigation projects

AMMAN (Petra) — The European Community (EC) is currently implementing water projects in the Azraq oasis and in the Hamad and Sirhan Basins to assess available quantities of water, according to the latest EC newsletter published this month in Amman.

The letter said that the Azraq project will contribute to the protection of the bird reserve at the oasis which is currently threatened by the overpumping of water from the site.

The water resources of the Mujib Basin in southern Jordan are being studied for the viability of building dams in the Wala and Nukheila wadis.

A study on the rehabilitation and upgrading of the King Abdullah canal, the lifeline for Jordan Valley agriculture, has already been completed, as has a study on the feasibility of raising the level of the Kafrein dam in the valley, according to the newsletter.

At present, it said, the dam provides irrigation water for around 12,000 dunums of land producing fruit and vegetable crops under a flexible system that allows for sprinkler drip and basin irrigation, according to the type of crop required.

The newsletter also said that the European Investment Bank (EIB) is funding projects to rehabilitate the water distribution networks of Irbid and Ramtha in northern Jordan and a major scheme is underway to upgrade the waste water network and pumping facilities in the industrial centre of Zarqa for which the EIB has provided loans of \$7 million since 1986.

Orthopaedic conference opens

By Maha Adhisi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The country's approach towards health care must be aided by the individuals and the families' responsibilities so that health becomes accessible to all, Minister of Health Aref Bataineh said Tuesday in an address to the first pan-Arab Orthopaedic Conference at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC).

Dr. Bataineh pointed out that Jordan recently hosted several medical conferences, "indicating the high levels of attention that is being given to medicine in Jordan. "We are definitely moving

in the correct direction," he said. "We hope that we can open doors to new scopes and horizons through these medical conferences."

The president of the Jordan Medical Association (JMA), Isahq Maraga, said that the JMA along with other societies of various medical specialties give priority to seminars and conferences. "This conference on orthopaedics emphasises our point," Dr. Maraga said.

"As an outcome of this conference it is hoped that a pan-Arab orthopaedic association will be established," said Dr. Nawras Sheqem, the president of the conference.

Computer exhibition draws large crowds

By Stephanie Genkin
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — As the information age descends upon Amman, the largest computer exhibition to be held in Jordan Tuesday was bustling with visitors flocking to see the latest in computer technology. Forty Jordanian firms exhibiting the most recent hardware and software in today's market are using the six-day event to educate the public as well as to demonstrate the technological capabilities of their various models.

Due to the rapidly growing computer-literate public in Jordan, it is predicted that some 25,000 visitors will attend the exhibition at the Expo Exhibition this week.

Looking forward to a large turnout throughout the event, Fuad Al Nimer, director of the Galaxy Trading and Tourism Corporation and the organiser of the exhibition, remarked, "We

are looking for quality visitors, not quantity." He added, "It was decided to charge an admission fee of 500 fils to ensure those attending are serious and genuinely interested in the products exhibited."

According to Yousef Al Barghouti, director of General Computers and Electronics, the exhibition is attracting a wide spectrum of customers, ranging from public and private business people to engineers, industrialists and students. "We are offering a good discount on all equipment, here at the exhibition, even for a single order," Mr. Barghouti added.

Whether one is interested in buying or browsing, the computer-expo is a convenient way to become more familiar with the most recent technology in Jordan.

The computer exhibition at the Expo Exhibition Centre is open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and will continue until Oct. 23.

Rifai acquitted of defaming deputies

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Court of First Instance has acquitted former Prime Minister Zaid Rifai of defaming members of Parliament. Judge Eid Al Lawzi passed the verdict on the case Monday, legal sources said.

The sources said they expected the prosecution to appeal the ruling at the Court of Appeals. There was no immediate comment from Parliament or the prosecutor-general's office.

The case was filed in August by the Lower House of Parliament in response to a demand by 42 of its members who were infuriated by a statement issued by the former prime minister over an alleged corruption case debated in the House.

Mr. Rifai, who stepped down in April 1989, issued the statement after the House failed to charge him in August with corruption in a major highway project which was awarded when he was prime minister in 1987.

The House, which required a minimum of 54 votes to indict Mr. Rifai and two of his colleagues in his 1985-1989 cabinet, could secure only 48 votes and thus the motion failed.

In separate votes, the motion against Hanna Odeh, who was Mr. Rifai's finance minister, was also quashed, but Mamdouh Hawamdeh, who was minister of

public works in the Rifai cabinet, was indicted.

According to the Constitution, the elected Lower House has to discuss all cases involving a serving or former minister and make its own decision. A special court will try former minister(s) or serving minister(s) indicted by the House.

Citing "public right," the House had said in its complaint that Mr. Rifai's statement, carried in the local press on Aug. 5, one day after the House voted in the affair, "defamed and insulted" members of Parliament.

The Rifai statement accused a "malicious group" of trying to defame him by levelling corruption charges against him and said the group "considers that the people of Jordan are ignorant and the rulers of the country know no laws or constitution."

"This group tries to deprive the people of their accomplishments which in many cases were tantamount to miracles. This group also denies all that has been achieved at all levels and the many sacrifices offered by the people of Jordan..."

At the same time, the statement also paid tribute to "the prominent people of Jordan, the pioneers who built this country, were not taken in by the falsehoods."

In his ruling Monday, Judge Lawzi said that the argument used by the deputies seeking legal



Zaid Rifai

action against Mr. Rifai fell short of supporting the defamation charges against the former prime minister, according to the legal source.

"The court made reference to the notice of the 42 deputies and rejected the argument paying tribute to some people could be slander against others," said the legal source. "And therefore it acquitted Mr. Rifai and declared him innocent."

In a telephone interview Tuesday, Mr. Rifai told the Jordan

Times: "I am very happy with the verdict of the court."

"I have always been proud of and believed in the judiciary of this country which has always been fair and just."

According to the legal source, the court reached its own decision and did not consult a team of independent legal experts.

House Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat and Deputy Speaker Abdul Karim Dughni could not be reached for comment on the verdict.

Since it invoked "public right" in filing the case, the House cannot appeal the ruling, but the prosecutor or the prosecutor-general can.

The prosecutor has 15 days to approach the court of appeals and the prosecutor-general has 60 days.

"All indications are that the prosecution might file an appeal," said another legal source. Several deputies have said that they were determined to "see this thing through."

The case against Mr. Rifai is one of at least three slander and insult lawsuits stemming from the alleged corruption affair. The House has taken to court hometown supporters of Mr. Hawamdeh who protested the indictment of the former minister and the director of the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) who criticised the House action against the Hawamdeh supporters.

Two ministers must choose between Islamic front or cabinet

By Nermeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Islamic Action Front intends to give an ultimatum to two of its founding members who presently hold ministerial posts to either choose between the party or the government, a prominent member of the front said in a public statement Monday night.

Muslim Brotherhood Deputy Abdullah Akaleh told an audience of 300 gathered at the Islamic Cultural Centre for a debate on political parties that the front was waiting to become officially registered before it made this ultimatum to Minister of Municipalities Abdul Razzak Tbeishat and Minister of Justice Yousef Mbeideen.

He said that such drastic action was required because of differences over the Middle East peace talks.

The Islamic Action Front, the



Abdullah Akaleh

Muslim Brotherhood and other Islamists are united in their rejection of any solution which will relinquish any part of Palestine to Israel.

During Monday's debate, a member of the audience asked

Mr. Akaleh how the front could claim to reject any deals over Palestine yet allow two of their members to continue to serve as ministers in a cabinet which condones peace talks with Israel which at best could result in partial retrieval of Israeli-occupied Palestinian land.

Mr. Akaleh said that the front was not yet registered and that the ministers would be asked to make a choice when the party becomes official.

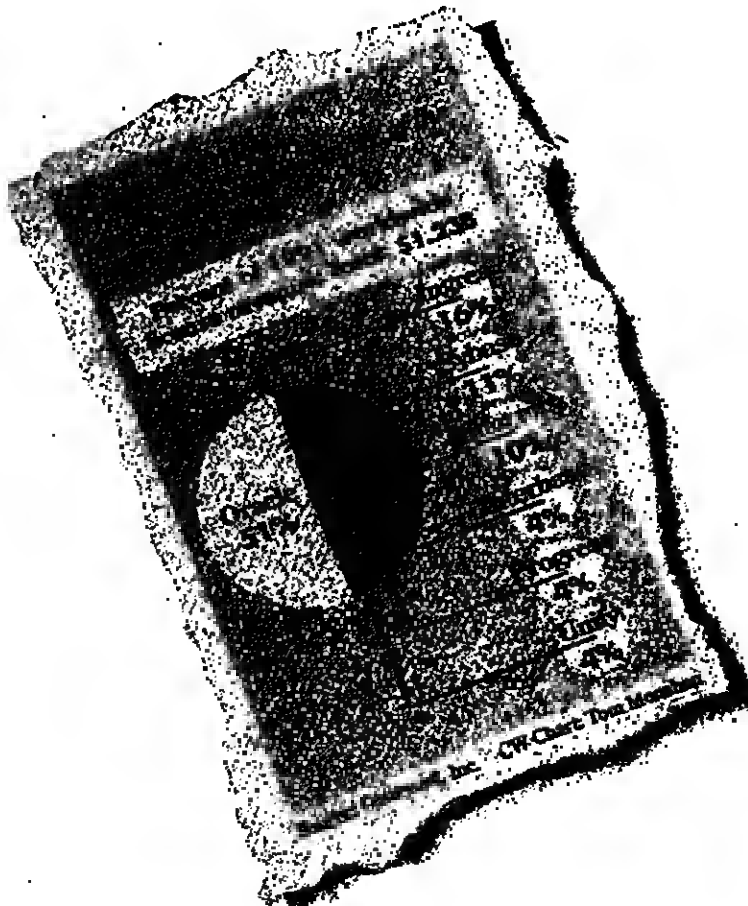
The debate was titled "Are Political Parties Necessary?" and was also attended by representatives of four other new political parties. Because the title of the debate left little for the imagination since the participants were in reality only required to defend their existence and not their different ideologies or political platform, the speeches only reflected a very small margin of the debate that is taking place in political circles throughout the country.

Although the speakers represented different political platforms and ideologies ranging from the Islamic Action Front party, the Arab Islamic Party, the Justice and Progressive Party, the National Coalition Party and Al Ahd Party, little controversy came out in the debate among them.

The speakers, who had 10 minutes to present their arguments, agreed that political parties were necessary. Most of them cited the same arguments for their conclusion although they approached it with different styles.

Perhaps because of this, observers of the debate said, the audience failed to create a serious political debate over pluralism in Jordan and the questions which followed the initial speeches seemed to try to pinpoint the speakers personally or discredit them based on prior convictions rather than react to what they said at the debate.

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More than rhetoric

THE THIRD and final debate between President George Bush and Democratic Bill Clinton produced no knockout but confirmed that Mr. Clinton is destined to be the next president of the U.S. It appears that the American people want a change even if that means jumping straight into the unknown. After 12 years of Republican rule at the White House, first by Ronald Reagan and later Mr. Bush, the American electorate is clearly opting for a change. The worst enemy of Mr. Bush has been and still is the slapping U.S. economy that seems to be unresponsive to all efforts to resuscitate it from deep recession in which it still finds itself. With the glow of the Gulf war put effectively behind the American voters, Mr. Bush, the hero of that infamous war, has turned into the villain of the U.S. domestic mess headed by the economic woes that have afflicted most Americans. As for the third contender for the White House, Ross Perot, no-one is seriously expecting him to score high enough on Nov. 3 to make much difference in the final countdown between Bush and Clinton. It is projected that whatever support Perot has gained as a result of the three debates will not amount to much on election day when the voters have to cast their votes to either Bush or Clinton for simple reason that votes for Perot will negate votes nothing more and nothing less. So beginning next January, there will be a new chief executive at the White House with whom the rest of the world will have to reckon, besides his own people of course.

Uppermost on the minds of the Middle East is how this dramatic change in leadership in Washington is going to affect the politics of the area, especially with regard to the Arab-Israeli conflict and the ongoing Republican-brokered peace process. All indications point in the direction of Clinton becoming more friendly to and supportive of Israel. Not only the election rhetoric of the Democrats points that way, but also the intentions of Clinton himself over and above the position of his own constituencies on the Arab-Israeli disputes. For one thing Clinton's stance on Jerusalem is not exactly comforting since he seems to accept the current Israeli control over all Jerusalem. The biggest fear is any future U.S. decision to move the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, something that could set into motion a series of similar moves by other countries. What ammunition could be available to the Arab side to meet this challenge is something that is at best open for conjecture. As for the peace negotiating process, it would be doubtful that Washington could be expected to exert the same degree of pressure as the incumbent Republican administration. The sum total of the changes that are expected to occur in Washington will leave the Arab side out in the cold with no-one really to depend on except themselves. But the kind of self-reliance that the Arab World has been demonstrating of late does not bode well for the future. The Palestinian side could turn out to be the biggest losers from the anticipated results of the U.S. presidential elections. Given the fragmentation of the Arab countries it is going to take more than rhetoric to salvage the situation for them.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily Tuesday discussed a call by the Arab League Secretary General Ismat Abdul Meguid for an Arab summit, noting that such a meeting should take place without prior preparations that can ensure its success. Dr. Abdul Meguid realises too well the inter-Arab differences, and that certain regimes do not wish to sit with others at the summit and therefore ample preparations ought to take place in advance of such a parley, said the paper. The Arabs are in need of an urgent summit to deal with the many problems plaguing their countries, and the danger posed to them on all directions, but a summit should be well prepared because there is no point of calling people together while realising in advance that they harbour enmity towards one another, the paper continued. It said that there is need for the Arab leaders to meet and end the starvation of the Iraqi people, the ordeals of the Palestinians and the Somalis and pave the ground for true solidarity among the Arab countries, the paper said. The last time the Arabs met, at the summit in Cairo, it was before the Gulf war and it was a meeting that led to further divisions because of ill-preparations, the paper added. The paper said that a meeting is necessary not only to end differences among the Arab regimes but also to defuse tension among Arab countries lest they quarrel over border disputes and lest they continue to impose sanctions on one another.

A COLUMNIST in SAWT AL SHAAB daily discussed the meeting held in Amman by the foreign ministers of Arab countries involved in the peace process with Israel. Rejection of separate and unilateral deals with Israel and reaffirmation of the need for full implementation of U.N. resolutions on the Arab-Israeli question, said Salameh Ekour, constituted an important step towards consolidating the Arab stand in the face of Israel's manoeuvres. The writer said that no comprehensive settlement has been reached guaranteeing the return of all Arab lands in line with the U.N. resolutions. Since the Palestine question serves as the focal point of any settlement, the right of return of the Palestinians and their right to an independent state in their own homeland should be guaranteed in a final formula, the writer added. He said that there is no harm for Syria, for instance, to reach an agreement with Israel over the Golan, but such an agreement would have to be tied up to the final settlement which should be a package deal with all the Arab countries involved in this question, said the writer. Should Israel direct its attention towards separate deals, added the writer, the Arab countries must pull out from the talks altogether so that there can be no room for more manoeuvres that would be futile and could by no means lead to a just settlement.

Economic Forum

Market economy — more than one version

By Dr. Abdalla Malki

THE prices of pharmaceuticals in Jordan are markedly higher than those in neighbouring countries such as Syria, Egypt and Lebanon. While the low prices in these countries may well be attributed to Socialist-based policies (Syria) or Socialist-biased tendencies (Egypt), the case of Lebanon is intriguing. The reason is that this country adopts a full-fledged market economy and if there were good grounds for drug prices to be high in Jordan, they should be equally high in Lebanon or similarly low in Jordan.

An analogous situation is the case of spare parts of all electric appliances and mechanical vehicles, notably cars. The situation here is so cynical to the extent that one or two spare parts may cost more than the entire original machine. Under these odd circumstances, the consumer sometimes opts for buying a new appliance or machine rather than repairing the old one. In this economically bizarre situation, the consumer stands to lose, the country also loses through unnecessary additional imports for no reason other than enabling the importer to earn a high profit. The whole system works to generate vast economic waste.

However, the alarming source of worry is not confined to that waste but includes the absence of the right mechanism to protect consumers in a market economy. Practically, the importer of the so-called original parts enjoys some sort of a monopoly. In a certain sense this is also applicable to drug imports. When a doctor prescribes an antibiotic under a certain brand, the patient

will be compelled to look for that particular brand which is imported by only one specific drug store even though the same antibiotic may be available in the domestic market under other commercial names.

The cases of the prices of imported drugs and spare parts represent glaring examples of the failure of the market forces to act in favour of the consumer. The market mechanism is jammed in this part of the road, whether this is due to monopolistic or semi-monopolistic practices or to inadequate circulation of information. Here government intervention is strongly warranted. And if it takes place, such intervention will not violate market economy rules. Under the most advanced forms of market economies, governments intervene to protect the consumer when the market forces fail to produce fair prices even where that calls for drastic measures. (Remember the dismantling of ITT in the United States).

Unjustifiable high prices like those of our spare parts and pharmaceutical products mean exceptionally fat profits. Such a pattern of profiteering leads to income concentration and wealth disparities. Now, the present advanced countries were able to avoid the grave social ill-effects of such disparities through spectacular economic progress which produced gains that were not only adequate to boost the wealth of the privileged but also to cater for the minimum requirements of the less privileged and thus pacify them.

If a society like Jordan, embarking irreversibly on a market economy, fails to grow fast enough to produce additional income adequate to abort potential social grievances and disorder, social disequilibria will emerge at a certain stage only to undermine its economic achievements later. During the last five years, real wages in Jordan have lagged far behind the rise in the cost of living; only a very naive analyst will assume that our social fabric will tolerate this situation for a long time.

There is, no such thing as a single or specific version for a market economy; the market elixir here can be diluted to a certain degree without any infringement on the basics of such an economy. The American version of the market economy is different from that of the French or Italian version and both are different from that of the Japanese one. Too much depends on the weight far away from the Japanese one. Too much depends on the weight accorded to the social disequilibria that may result from the complete free interplay of market forces in determining the national profitability of various measures such as protection and abolishing of subsidies. The message here is that the operational form of the market economy must be tailored to the specific needs of the country and its stage of economic development.

If we in Jordan are determined to go with the market economy all the way to the end of the road, we must be ready to play the effective role Western governments play in regulating the economy, remedying the excesses and oddities of fully unleashed market forces and protecting the customers.

The U.S.-Israeli special relationship after Shamir and the cold war

By Naseer H. Aruri

In the midst of the U.S. presidential campaign in which George Bush trails his Democratic opponent in the public opinion polls, two occasions in August were seized by the beleaguered incumbent and the Republican party to make a serious bid for the Jewish vote: the well-publicised visit of Israeli Prime Minister Rabin and his wife to the home of George and Barbara Bush in Kennebunkport, and the Republican party national convention.

Mr. Bush and Mr. Rabin hoped to gain political capital from the Kennebunkport visit; whereas Mr. Rabin was counted upon to deliver a diplomatic feat for George Bush, he himself was hoping to demonstrate to the Israeli electorate that he and his party are capable of repairing the damage caused by his predecessor, Yitzhak Shamir, to the special relationship with the U.S. By the same token, Mr. Bush was hoping to demonstrate to Israel's supporters in the U.S. that the special relationship with Israel is intact, and that his differences

Middle East."

Israel as a strategic base

The U.S.-Israeli strategic alliance will undoubtedly be strengthened and adapted to post-cold war conditions. It will not be based on the obsolete "Soviet threat" but on Israel's willingness and ability to offer the U.S. a strategic base in the eastern Mediterranean to respond to regional conflicts. Israeli strategists suggested in interviews with the Washington Post in July that Israel "will present itself to Washington as a figurative home port in a sea of regional crisis". The port of Haifa is gradually and consistently accommodating larger U.S. naval vessels. Meanwhile the United States is interested in positioning enough equipment in Israel for a mechanised battalion. And, already, Israel has served as a testing ground for equipment, a research and development centre and a weapons purchaser and supplier.

Now that the Pentagon has come up with new ideas for

major military campaigns in Europe to prevent a resurgent Russia from pursuing expansionist aims."

The Pentagon's new vision

The Pentagon visionaries apparently imagine a battered Iraq invading Kuwait and other oil states in the Gulf, and anticipate major battles for the U.S. there, in the Korean peninsula, in Panama, probably in the Philippines, and in Europe. There is practically nothing in the document about taking serious steps towards collective security. Instead, the U.S. is expected to "maintain the mechanisms for deterring potential competitors from ever aspiring to a larger regional or global role". These "mechanisms" would then justify the Pentagon's desire to spend \$1.2 trillion over the next five years, irrespective of who is at the helm in the White House.

Despite the criticism of the documents by Democratic senators like Joseph Biden, Robert

Israel's regional role

Israel's strategic relevance for America's future endeavours would be enhanced by leaps and bounds in the context of an Arab-Israeli diplomatic settlement. Israel would no longer have to be kept out of Gulf "security" matters. Its regional role would be confirmed and expanded to include the Mediterranean, the Gulf and Central Asia. It would become a vanguard in the coming crusade against what is known in the West as Islamic fundamentalism and extremism. It would be in the forefront in the fight against "terrorism", the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction and may use its own terrorist methods and nuclear blackmail to achieve objectives it shares with the U.S. It would also try to seduce the Central Asia states with agricultural technology. The United States is already providing huge amounts of money for an Israeli project involving agricultural and irrigation expertise to Central Asia.

Such regional "reconstruction" is expected to have a much better chance of success with Mr. Rabin at the helm in Israel. His pragmatism and sensitivity to public relations would qualify him as a more suitable partner for the Pentagon strategists than Mr. Shamir, whose obsession with outmoded ideological notions was a serious barrier to such cooperation. Mr. Rabin's practical approach is more consonant with Washington's subtle requirements for forging a Pax Americana under the guise of a new world order. The Kennebunkport meeting is likely to be pivotal in the attempt to agree on a framework for redefining and broadening strategic cooperation.

Although this analysis reveals that a new chapter is being opened up in the relationship between the United States and Israel, it by no means implies that Israel is being vested with a carte blanche by its strategic ally. The fact is that while the strategic relationship is being renewed, it is also being clarified. American

also puts the onus on Washington to avoid being blatantly biased. American stewardship is going to require a viable settlement that reflects the irreducible minimum of Palestinian national aspirations and Arab basic requirements.

Herein lies the challenge to the Palestinians and the Arabs: Mr. Bush's new world order demands a higher level of regional conformity to broader interests. The aspirations of potential regional hegemony would be circumscribed if they were perceived as friendly, and would be destroyed if they looked like Iraq. That means friendly Israel, America's foremost regional ally, would not have the same degree of strategic independence that it enjoyed in the past. It would have to conform to the broader, updated concept of U.S. interests. But it would still be strategically relevant, as has already been shown.

Consequently, given America's need for a resolution of the conflict, additional Arab concessions at this juncture would be detrimental to the Arab negotiating position and to the cause of peace in the Middle East. And given George Bush's need to bridge the gap in public opinion polls and deliver a tangible diplomatic success prior to next November, any



"We will retain the pre-eminent responsibility for addressing selectively those wrongs which threaten not only our interests, but those of our allies and friends, or which could seriously unsettle international relations."

rush by the Palestinians and the Arabs to make yet further concessions would be an unwarranted gift. Instead, Mr. Bush's electoral problems should provide impetus for standing firm, particularly since Mr. Rabin has so far failed to introduce any meaningful confidence-building measures.

Given this, the public concessions made by senior Palestinians in the peace delegation are not helpful. One such concession removed insistence on a total settlement freeze as a condition for proceeding with negotiations. Palestinians would be satisfied now merely with evidence that none of the U.S. guaranteed loans was being spent in the occupied territories. The latest U.S. euphemism is "substantial curtailment". Another concession gives credence to Mr. Rabin's long-held position that the River Jordan constitutes a "security border". An Israeli military presence along the Jordan river valley would be accepted if that is needed "out of security, rather than historical or ideological claims". Such concessions made through the media on the way to the negotiating table are a novelty in the history of diplomatic intercourse. Washington's desire to bring about a diplomatic settlement must be put to the test, despite the fact that America's strategic imperatives have always superseded the peace imperative.

The writer is professor of political science at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth, and a member of the Palestine National Council. The article is reprinted from Middle East International.

were not with Israel but with Mr. Shamir's inflexible policies. Although Republican presidential candidates have never received more than 35 per cent of the Jewish vote, George Bush is in no position to forfeit even the slightest segment of that vote. Moreover, despite a low expectation, President Bush is keenly aware of the fact that Jewish voters, who are concentrated in states with large populations and who regularly turn out at the polling booths, could make a crucial difference. The Rabin's visit was an occasion for the president to reaffirm the U.S.-Israeli strategic relationship and to lay to rest speculation that Israel's strategic importance has diminished with the end of the cold war.

The Republican national convention was the second occasion for an investment in Jewish votes to shore up Mr. Bush's sagging popularity. The platform repeats the substance of the president's earlier pledge to Mr. Rabin at the conclusion of his visit to Kennebunkport:

"Consistent with our strategic relationship, the United States should continue to provide large-scale security assistance to Israel, maintaining Israel's qualitative military advantage over any adversary or coalition of adversaries... we will continue to broaden and deepen the strategic relationship with our ally Israel — the only true democracy in the

American "security policy" after the cold war, Israeli military planners are at work trying to find a role and ensure "strategic relevance." The concept of "strategic asset" would not only be retained, but would also be reshaped and adapted as the Pentagon continues to imagine new enemies to fight. In March, the New York Times published a leaked draft policy statement attributed to senior Pentagon officials that foresees a world in which the U.S. is seen as the world's only superpower and no combination of allies or enemies would be permitted to rival that role: "We will retain the pre-eminent responsibility for addressing selectively those wrongs which threaten not only our interests, but those of our allies and friends, or which could seriously unsettle international relations."

Such "wrongs" would include the proliferation of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction to nations like North Korea and Iraq, a future Russian attack against Eastern Europe and threats to "regional stability" in the Middle East. According to the document, the Pentagon planners predict that the U.S. would need "forces and weapons to fight at least two large regional wars simultaneously, one against Iraq in the Gulf, and one against North Korea, while also being ready to conduct a

Byrd and others, a Clinton administration would not be expected to diverge significantly from current Pentagon thinking. Mr. Clinton, a centrist candidate with a Democratic label, has not advocated any contractions in U.S. involvements abroad. The Pentagon planners would not have major difficulties convincing him of the necessity to identify a broad range of regional threats after the principal global "threat" could no longer be contrived.

This context will likely prove fertile ground for Israel's own military planners, who have long awaited an opportunity to bridge the gap between America's global orientation and Israel's regional orientation. In their view the U.S. would be more amenable to their long-standing thesis that the regional threats supersede the global and therefore Israel's interests in the region and those of the U.S. may coalesce in the coming years. The absence of Soviet-related scenarios could lead both countries to focus on regional problems. With turmoil in Algeria and Sudan, uncertainties in Libya, Central Asia and the Gulf, and a full-scale war in Yugoslavia, the Pentagon authors of the future war scenarios would find an able and willing Israel a suitable platform "the biggest carrier in the Mediterranean," according to a senior Israeli official.

The strategic relationship is also being rebuilt in the area of shared intelligence as well as servicing the U.S. 6th Fleet and military aircraft stationed in Europe. All of America's F-15 planes are now serviced by Israel Aircraft Industries, while stationed Israel Shipyards regularly services and repairs U.S. ships at Haifa. The U.S. navy has allocated funds for expanding the port of Haifa, dredging the harbour and strengthening the piers.

Such joint ventures in military and non-military matters already under way would reconfirm the special relationship and reinforce the strategic alliance. Israel would reemerge as regional enforcer for the sole superpower and continue to be the strategic asset beyond the cold war and the dissolution of the Soviet Union. On the eve of Mr. Rabin's first visit to the U.S. as prime minister, his foreign minister, Shimon Peres, challenged the view that Israel's strategic importance has diminished:

"If previously we had to confront the Russians, now we have to confront the situation... Because the best peace paintings, hung on deteriorating walls, will fall down. We need different walls not just different paintings. And I think it is in the interest of the U.S. to see the Middle East reconstructed." (Christian Science Monitor, 3 Aug. '92).

interests during the cold war are not exactly the same as those after it. Access to Gulf oil and protection of Israeli security remain, as expected, among America's primary interests in the region. But the U.S. has now established unrivalled dominance in a previously contested area. American inclinations towards a single superpower world would be enhanced by using that dominance to exercise influence over its principal allies of the cold war period. The Middle East therefore becomes a critical testing ground for what George Bush calls the new world order.

The challenge to the Arabs

American interests in the region are, therefore, extended, and for the first time, the U.S. feels truly in charge. Rearranging the regional order under these conditions implies a need for a settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Given the absence of America's chief rival the USSR and the resulting diminished leverage of both its regional pillars and detractors, the task of reconstruction is seen by the U.S. as less cumbersome and less costly. The role which the Bush administration envisions for itself in the Middle East, and as a consequence in the world at large, requires a resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict. That endeavour

Sharif Zeid pledges support for JPA

(Continued from page 1)

har the government would increase its financial assistance to the JPA so as to help it honour its financial commitments, particularly in ensuring health insurance for its members and backing for its quest to obtain assistance from the local newspapers at the rate of one per cent of their income from advertising as was agreed earlier between the JPA and the newspaper companies.

Mr. Qudus said that the JPA was hoping that these funds would be forthcoming to help the journalists finance their own housing projects.

Minister of State for Prime Minister Affairs Ibrahim Izzet, who was present at the meeting, supported the views of the JPA and the prime minister in demanding that the one per cent be paid to the JPA.

Minister of Information Mahmoud Al Sharif and the prime minister's information advisor, Ali Safadi, were present at the meeting.

In a separate move, the JPA board Tuesday issued a statement to Jordanian journalists urging them to seek the truth in their reports, particularly about the ongoing Shabab 'Al Nafar Al Islami trial.

The JPA appealed to journalists and writers to remain committed to the profession's ethics

and remain neutral and responsible in covering various events and to refrain from levelling accusations against other people and pre-judging those being tried at court.

It said that no journalist should resort to any terms or phrases designed to change the picture or infringe on the credibility of the press.

The statement urged all journalists to publish facts without influencing the reports with their own judgements.

"For the sake of protecting Jordan's security and stability, all journalists should avoid adding to their reports their own personal views employing harsh terms whenever reporting on court sessions and refrain from giving their own comments about any development because such behaviour could tantamount to spreading rumours and inciting sedition," the statement added.

"While supporting press freedom and free expression, the JPA expresses its deep commitment to honouring and respecting the Jordanian laws and urges the journalists to be responsible reporters of news and events who uphold the ethics of their profession," said the statement.

It said that the press shall remain committed to defending citizens rights and protecting national interests.

Palestinians fear talks could be stalled

(Continued from page 1)

offices in July.

"The Israeli government has proposed a national council. We are not talking about a state but from the very moment we agree on this administration, the Israeli government will agree to sit with them on other subjects," Ms. Aloni told reporters.

Mr. Rabin said in an interview published Tuesday that chances for peace with Syria were now better than with the Palestinians.

"It does appear today — and that is the reason for Palestinian frustrations with Syria — that there are better chances to conclude (a peace agreement with Damascus)," he told the French daily newspaper Le Monde.

"Negotiations with Damascus appear more promising for two reasons first, because there is someone in Damascus (President Hafez Al Assad) who can take decisions."

"Secondly, because the Syrians, contrary to the Palestinians, accept the framework of negotiations agreed in Madrid," he said.

Mr. Rabin said he was very disappointed with the attitude of Palestinian negotiators "who have not yet accepted the idea that we must go, step by step, towards an interim accord."

"For the past 50 or so years, the Palestinians' great tragedy is that they have always wanted to obtain the maximum but never obtained anything," said Mr. Rabin.

Palestinian spokeswoman Janan Ashrawi said in a separate radio interview that Mr. Rabin's statements about lack of progress with Palestinians "prejudged the issues."

Asked by Radio France International if she feared there might be a separate Syrian-Israeli accord, Dr. Ashrawi said there was an "Arab commitment not to go separate agreements (and) we have a full understanding with the Syrians."

"We are pleased with any progress on any front which will trigger and encourage progress on other tracks," she said.

"I wouldn't raise unrealistic expectations or hopes, given the fact that so much time has passed," Dr. Ashrawi said before

leaving Amman on a flight to Paris late Monday.

She and other delegates will meet French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas during a brief stop-over on the trip.

"There is a tremendous frustration with the peace process that it has been long and drawn out without any results," Dr. Ashrawi told Reuters.

"We had hoped by the end of this month we would end negotiations on the interim phase and start implementation but unfortunately we still haven't reached agreement on basic issues."

Mr. Rabin told Le Monde there could be not be peace with Syria until he met Mr. Assad.

"I am not asking for a summit now. But I cannot imagine peace being established between Syria and Israel if the leaders of the two countries refuse to meet."

"We cannot sign a peace treaty with Damascus if the Syrian leader does not give his people proof that he is ready for reconciliation with Israel," Mr. Rabin said.

Mr. Rabin indicated, as he has done before, Israeli willingness to withdraw from at least part of the occupied Golan Heights in exchange for peace.

But he said he would not go into details about the scope of withdrawal until he was certain that Syria's concept of peace included open borders, freedom of movement and the exchange of ambassadors.

Asked about his Labour Party's pre-election intentions to scrap a law banning contacts with members of the PLO, Mr. Rabin said the reform did not mean Israeli authorities would negotiate with the Tunis-based body.

The reform was aimed instead at individuals seeking PLO contacts, he said, adding that the reform's timing depended on unspecified "new realities."

"Changing the law could incite some in the United States to resume official contacts with the PLO and I do not want to facilitate that," he said.

Israel meanwhile turned down an offer by Mr. Arafat to meet Mr. Rabin.

Mr. Rabin's spokesman, Gad Ben-Ari, said in reaction to Mr. Arafat's offer: The prime minister's office has no intention whatsoever to comment on that."

Kuwaiti assembly holds first meeting

(Continued from page 1)

MR. Saadoun won 46 votes against 13 which went to his only opponent, Abdul Aziz Al Adani, an independent. Sheikh al-Abdast.

Under Kuwaiti law, cabinet members have the right to vote in parliament even if they are non-parties.

Elections held early this month brought an unprecedented majority of 35 opposition deputies to house.

The six opposition deputies serving in the cabinet also constitute the largest number of parliament members ever to be included in the government.

The obvious maximum was three. Kuwaitis hope the move would prove the relationship between two authorities.

The opposition welcomed the appointments but complained it the key portfolios, such as finance, interior and foreign affairs, remained in the hands of the Al Sabah family which has ruled Kuwait for 250 years.

Islem Al Sager, the eldest deputy, headed Tuesday's inaugural session, until Mr. Saadoun's sworn in.

"Today ... Kuwait proves to world how deep-rooted its

democracy is ... and its worthiness of the international support it receives for liberation," said Mr. Sager.

He said security, economic, political and social challenges Kuwait faces were complicated by the fact that the world was moving to a new world order which has not been completely shaped.

"This puts the world situation in general and the situation in our Arab and Gulf worlds on the doorstep of major changes," said Mr. Sager.

"We have to be steady enough so that those changes don't wash us away, and flexible enough so that they don't pass us by."

The parliament was expected to start Tuesday reviewing more than 500 laws passed by the government during its absence, including a \$24-billion plan to buy out bad debts held by the emirate's banks.

Opposition deputies have demanded an investigation of the government's failure to predict the Iraqi invasion of August 1990 and a probe into the collapse of the armed forces and mismanagement of the country's vast foreign investments.

Bosnian peoples far apart on shape of new state

By Robert Evans
Reuters

GENEVA — After seven months of fighting, Bosnia-Herzegovina's Muslims, Serbs and Croats appear as far apart as ever on the shape of a state where they could live together again.

The three main communities in the former Yugoslav republic have made clear to international mediators working in Geneva that they have widely differing views on how they could share power from foreign affairs down to customs duties.

In presentations to the mediators of their views, the Muslim-led Bosnian government argues for a single if decentralised state, the rebel Serbs insist on a confederation and the Croats argue for a federation.

The presentations, in copies obtained by Reuters this weekend, show the government insisting that the high degree of intermingling before the conflict erupted in April meant a split along ethnic lines would be economic nonsense.

The Serbs have told mediator Martti Ahtisaari, according to the documents, that they want three clearly identified ethnic states each with their own central bank, police force and army or national guard.

Between these two positions, Croat leader Mate Boban says the country should be "a democratic and federal state of constituent and sovereign nations" where the three national groups are organised in their own "units."

The presentations were made in response to a questionnaire from Mr. Ahtisaari, an experienced Finnish diplomat and United Nations negotiator who heads a working group on Bosnia set up by the Geneva Conference on the old Yugoslavia.

The conference co-chairman, former U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and ex-British Foreign Secretary Lord Owen, say that despite the continued ferocity of the conflict, progress is being made in discussions on a future constitution.

But the presentations suggest there has been little change of position since European Community-brokered talks in February and March this year failed to prevent war between the Serbs

and the loosely allied Muslims and Croats.

Then the idea of "cantons" along the Swiss model was pursued but the Serbs — just under 30 per cent of the population — also demanded near total autonomy in their own region covering two thirds of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In a referendum on March 3, boycotted by most Serbs, the Muslims and Croats voted almost unanimously for independence from the rump Yugoslavia — already reduced to only Serbia and Montenegro — and it was immediately proclaimed.

An EC plan for constitutional settlement, which in outline resembled that now offered by the Croats who represent 18 per cent of the country's people, was rejected by Serb leader Radovan Karadzic as too centralist.

Despite apparent initial agree-

ment, Bosnia's parliamentary President Alija Izetbegovic rejected division into ethnic cantons on grounds almost identical to those which he and his colleagues still defend.

He feared the Muslims, concentrated by history in small pockets of territory and many major towns but spread thinly across the countryside, would be left with an unviable mini-state under constant threat from its larger neighbours.

Although he retains the backing of some urban Serbs who reject the fierce nationalism of Mr. Karadzic, he is accused by the Bosnian Serb leaders of aiming to create an Islamic state where Muslims would dominate the rest.

But in his government's presentation to Mr. Ahtisaari, he argues for a "democratic, secular and decentralised state" based on

equal rights "for Croats, Muslims, Serbs and all other citizens of Bosnia-Herzegovina."

Decentralisation, the presentation argues, should be based on geographic and economic criteria as well as national and cultural grounds, and be around "natural centres" in the larger towns and cities.

These "constituent units-regions," the document declared, "do not have the character of a state." The Serbs, who have proclaimed their own republic and through "ethnic cleansing" have removed many Muslims and Croats, insist that they should.

"Naturally," their document says, the constituent units "are sovereign states with all the consequences known in internal and international law" joining a future confederation of Bosnia-Herzegovina "of their own free will."

Berri elected parliament speaker

(Continued from page 1)

Scattered volleys of machine-gun fire rang out from residential districts as Mr. Berri's co-religionists celebrated his election.

Mr. Berri, a lawyer by profession, heads the Shiite Amal movement which fought against the rightists in the 1975-80 civil war and is committed to an alliance of guerrilla factions fighting against Israel in South Lebanon.

Mr. Berri was elected as a parliament deputy for the first time in the recent general elections. The poll was the first in 20 years and was boycotted by hard line Christians.

The parliamentary elections, held in four stages between Aug.

23 and Oct. 11, produced an overwhelming pro-Syrian parliament. The right-wing Christians, mainly Maronite Catholics, argued that holding the elections while Syrian troops control two-thirds of the country would turn Lebanon into a Syrian satellite.

Syria has 40,000 troops in Lebanon under a 1976 Arab League peacekeeping mandate.

The Christian boycott helped bring Muslim fundamentalists and their allies to the half-Christian, half-Muslim parliament for the first time ever. They won 16 seats.

One Sunni fundamentalist, Fathi Yakan of north Lebanon, walked into parliament Tuesday wearing a black robe and carrying a prayer rug.

Likudinks

(Continued from page 1)

security problems. On Monday night, several dozen settlers demonstrated outside Mr. Rabin's home for the second time.

GCC ready

(Continued from page 1)

nations have been easing their boycott on American or other companies that still deal with Israel in their bid to produce "confidence-building measures."

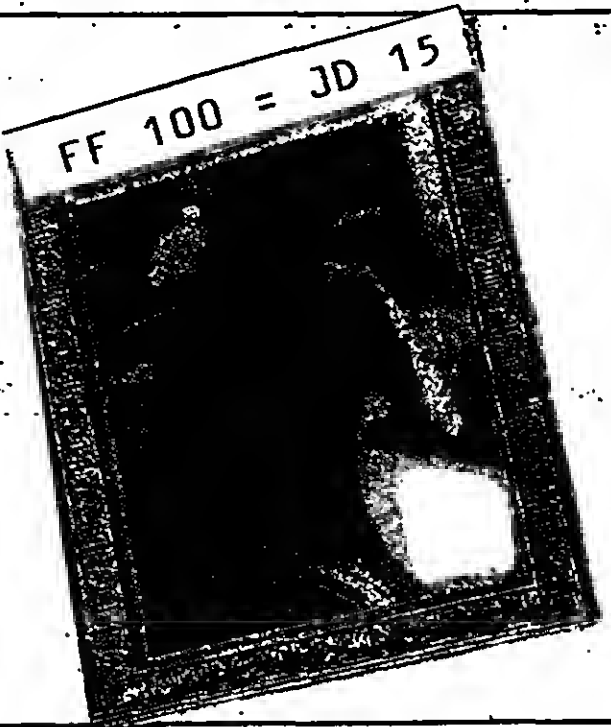
Kuwait announced in December that it was no longer blacklisting firms that deal with Israel because of the urgent needs of its reconstruction after the devastation caused by seven months of Iraqi occupation and the Gulf war.

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Michael Jordan tours Miami to raise money for hurricane victims

MIAMI (AP) — Basketball's greatest scorer concentrated on rebounding Monday.

Michael Jordan and his Chicago Bulls teammates visited Miami seeking to raise money and spirits in the aftermath of hurricane Andrew. The trip was Jordan's idea.

The Bulls and Miami Heat conducted a 30-minute midday clinic at Miami Arena for 12,000 schoolchildren from hurricane-ravaged South Dade County. The teams played a charity exhibition game several hours later.

Students ages 8 to 15, delighted to be hanging out with Jordan rather than sitting in a classroom, cheered his every move during the clinic.

"He can teach me how to dunk," said 14-year-old Dexter Roberts, who might stand 1.38 metres (4-foot-6) in Air Jordans.

"He's shorter than I thought he'd be," said 10-year-old Kelvin Edwards, referring to Michael Jordan, not Dexter Roberts.

In warmups, every layup Jordan made brought a frenzied shriek from the crowd. He participated in shooting contests between the two teams, and when the Heat outscored the Bulls 20-18 in free throws, some youngsters booed.

Jordan spoke briefly over the public address system.

"Being millionaires," he said, "isn't a sense of obligation to come and help people who need so much to us. We consider Miami part of our family — the NBA family. Hopefully the money raised will give you a little more determination to rebuild."

Chicago Bulls overcome Miami Heat 111-94

The exhibition game raised over \$500,000 to aid the victims of hurricane Andrew and lifted the spirits of hundreds of homeless children and even two professional basketball teams.

Approximately 740 youngsters whose homes were lost or extensively damaged as the result of Hurricane Andrew occupied all the courtside seats as the Chicago Bulls beat the Miami Heat, 111-94 Monday night.

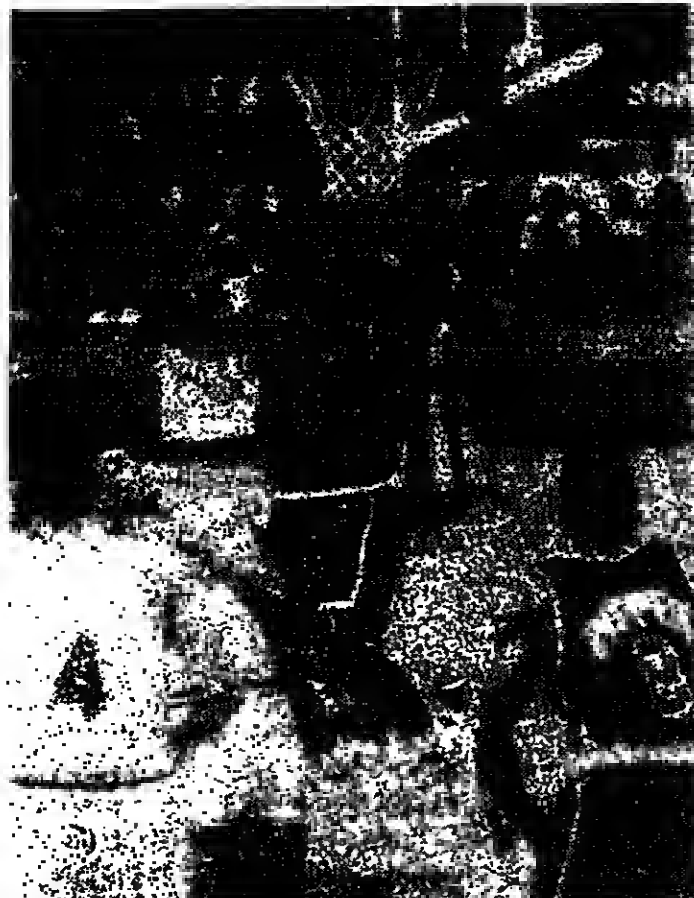
"For one day in October, they had the times of their lives," said Jordan, who first suggested the game to Heat partner Billy Cunningham when the two of them were playing golf together in North Carolina shortly after the storm.

"It was exciting for us to see all the kids have a good time," said Miami's Glen Rice, who scored 21 points. "It felt absolutely fantastic to see so many kids smiling once again because the hurricane devastated the majority of them," said the Bulls' Horace Grant, who scored 15.

For some, the feeling was very personal.

The home of Heat trainer Ron Culp was not livable after the hurricane and he spent two weeks in the home of the team's coach, Kevin Loughery.

"He just said, 'take my home,'" Culp said. "A lot of people have no one helping them. Every day is a struggle for them. Tonight is a way of reminding people not to get caught up in their lives and forget about the others."



Michael Jordan

All ticket revenue was contributed by the Heat to We Will Rebuild, a civic organization spearheading the relief effort. That total, which Heat executive vice president Pauline Winick indicated would reach at least \$400,000 was boosted by the fact that the Bulls waived the fee they

would have ordinarily received for the game.

The game was televised nationally by TNT, which announced an \$800 million for viewers to make contributions to the relief programme. Heat officials indicated that more than \$100,000 was raised that way.

Rangers and Leeds battle for pride and semifinal place

LONDON (R) — Leeds and Glasgow Rangers clash in the most intriguing and passionate of Wednesday's European Cup ties with much more at stake than a lucrative semifinal berth.

The English and Scottish champions will be playing for the pride of their nations in a second-round tie viewed as the unofficial British Championship and labelled the "Battle of Britain."

But when the two sides lock horns in the first leg at Ibrox of an encounter full of ironies, their chances and aspirations will rest heavily on players from enemy territory.

Leeds, who beat VfB Stuttgart in a controversial third match ordered after the Germans fielded too many foreign players in their second leg, rely on experienced Scots Gordon Strachan and captain Gary McAllister to provide the inspiration and drive.

Rangers, who have not progressed past the second round of the European Cup on their last three attempts, field two influential Englishmen in Trevor Steven and Mark Hateley.

French champions Marseille travel to Romania for a European Cup second round soccer tie Wednesday in an atmosphere of fear and fury.

The glittering prize, after the two legs are played, is a place among the last eight in the two-group league format semifinals of Europe's top club competition.

Marseille crashed out at this point last season and coach Jean Fernandez knows his job could be on the line if the expensive team fail to win through again.

He can expect no favours from the club's millionaire businessman owner Bernard Tapie, who has set heart and wallet on bringing the cup to France for the first time.

After Marseille suffered their

second successive league defeat Saturday — the first time that had happened in more than four years — Tapie's fury was evident.

The players were locked in the dressing room for 90 minutes after the match and Fernandez told reporters later: "At Marseille, you have to win. Two defeats in a row is a lot. The next few days are sure to be very important."

Dinamo Bucharest, Marseille's opponents, are not the toughest club to beat but the French still have nightmares about their defeat last season to Sparta Prague.

Marseille have been noticeably weakened by the summer departures of Jean-Pierre Papin, Chris Waddle and Carlos Moller and their cause has not been helped by the loss of form of full-back Manuel Amoros, who has lost his place.

Dinamo last week parted with coach Florin Halagian after a string of poor results and former player Alexandru Moldovan took over as interim coach, knowing that a win against Marseille would be the best way of keeping the job.

Champions Barcelona, who struggled to beat unfancied Norwegian Viking Stavanger 1-0 on aggregate in the first round, also need to forget a recent league defeat in Spain when they travel to CSKA Moscow.

The Catalans expect to be at full strength and know that anything approaching their best should be more than good enough against the young Russian army team.

Former champions Milan are likely to prove nontopable against Czechoslovakia's Slovan Bratislava after equalling the Italian League record of 40 consecutive matches without defeat Sunday by beating Lazio 5-3 at home.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Atlanta wants golf in 1996 Olympics

ATLANTA (R) — Atlanta Olympic organisers want to add golf to the 1996 Summer Games as a medal sport with Augusta National Golf Course as the site of the competition, a newspaper reported Monday. The addition of any sport to the Olympic programme, however, will require approval of the International Olympic Committee. Golf has not been an Olympic medal sport since the 1904 Games in St. Louis.

Italian biker de Petri hurt in Egypt Rally crash

CAIRO (R) — Italian rider Alessandro de Petri was seriously hurt in a crash in the desert during Egypt's Pharaoh's Rally, hospital officials in the upper Egyptian town of Assiut said Tuesday. De Petri, 37, who won the 5,000 km race two years ago, was flown to a hospital in Assiut, where his spleen was removed Monday night. Doctors said he had also suffered concussion and damage to his kidney.

Krabbe's club put off decision on her expulsion

NEUBRANDENBURG, Germany (R) — Double world sprint champion Katrin Krabbe's German club put off a decision on expelling her until she had appealed against her four-year doping ban. The Neubrandenburg Athletics Club said after a meeting it had decided to stop the expulsion proceedings against Krabbe, world 400 silver medalist Grit Breuer and teammate Manuela Derr that it began last month. The German Athletics Federation (DLV) recommended to the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) in September that the trio be banned. Krabbe and Breuer tested positive for the banned drug clenbuterol during random tests in training in July. Derr has also admitted to taking the drug.

Rodrigo de Triano for Breeders Cup classic

LONDON (AP) — A trio of Europe's best three-year-olds could turn the \$3 million Breeders Cup classic in Florida Oct. 31 into an unofficial "world championship."

Rodrigo de Triano, French-trained Azadi, and Irish Derby winner St. Jovite are all likely to run the 10-furlong (2,000 metre) race on Gulfstream Park's dirt track.

St. Jovite, rated Europe's leading middle-distance 3-year-old, was Monday confirmed for the classic by trainer Jim Bolger.

"We reckoned that St. Jovite has nothing more to prove on grass over a mile and a half, and — since he's likely to stand at stud in the United States — we should take this opportunity to prove his versatility," Bolger said.

Spassky says Fischer is king of chess

BELGRADE (AP) — Former world chess champion Boris Spassky suggested Monday that he might have a subconscious desire to lose to Bobby Fischer to help Fischer's comeback, saying he considered him the king of chess.

Attention at the weekly news conference obviously focused on Fischer, who reaffirmed he would never again play in a tournament and lashed out against Russian leaders for what he described as their failure to abandon Soviet policies.

Fischer and Spassky played to a short but spirited draw in the 22nd game of their series at Bel-

grade's Sava Centre.

Fischer wore down Boris Spassky in a grueling duel Saturday to win the 21st game and take an 8-4 lead. Spassky had won the previous game Thursday after a nine-hour draw the day before.

"On the one hand, I'm a fighter; on the other hand, I'm on Bobby's side," Spassky said Monday.

"We must have our king, in chess and Bobby can be the king. (Former world chess champion Anatoly) Karpov and (reigning champion Garry) Kasparov cannot be kings because they're communists."

Seoul to offer to co-host 2002 World Cup soccer

SEOUL (AP) — South Korea will formally offer to co-host the 2002 World Cup soccer championship with rival North Korea, a government report said Tuesday.

The Sports Ministry report to the National Assembly said joint Korean sponsorship would boost chances of bringing the soccer's premier event to the Korean peninsula in 2002.

The United States is the host of the 1994 World Cup. Under a principle of rotation, the 1998 World Cup is set to be staged in Europe. FIFA, the world's soccer governing body, has decided to move the event to Asia in 2002. FIFA officials have said a united Korea would have a better chance of winning the right to host the event in 2002.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 21, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You will be thinking out a course of action that has to do with literary or contractual obligations that are of importance to you. You may be able to take some time off to be with a special friend.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) This is certainly your day to find out just where you stand with your partners and associates and to put your relationship on a better basis.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Look to what any fellow associates expect of you and go along with their wishes and views and you will find that you get along just great with them.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A great day and evening for you to make new arrangements where your desire for happier outlets are concerned so put them in effect at once.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) The outside world is your oyster today if you make a point to put some new life and vitality into whatever your vocational duties are.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) New ideas or interests with which you are inspired can be made a part of your active daily routines if you don't loiter but put into motion at once.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Your money dealings with others can be the centre of your

activities now so you will have a greater abundance and to spare for yourself.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Joining forces with those who inspire you and are very active can be the right means by which you make a more satisfactory existence for yourself.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You have a new inspiration on your tasks now and it will be possible for you now to do so in such a manner that you greatly please a close companion.

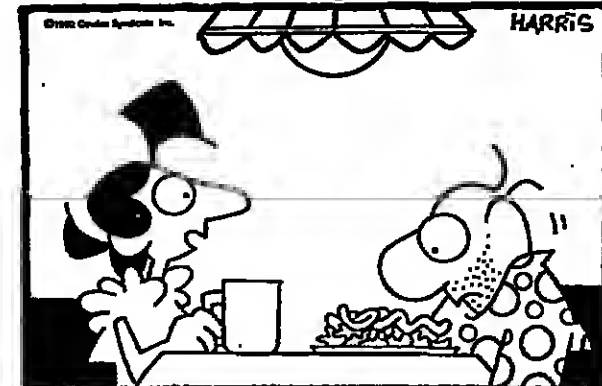
SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Understanding friends and close affectionate companions can be made to see and enjoy themselves with you at pleasure you all like now.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Whatever better arrangements can be made at your home will also benefit your basic interests at your home and with your family now.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Consider well your new ambitions and how you can get your usual associates to go along with them so there will be benefits for everyone concerned.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) A whole new approach at your financial affairs and making your environment both more attractive and valuable are the operating influences today.

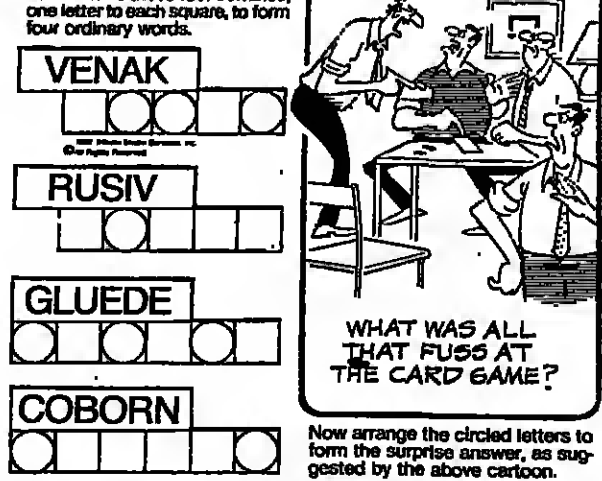
THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"Your morning breath is really bad today, so I put toothpaste on your eggs instead of ketchup."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

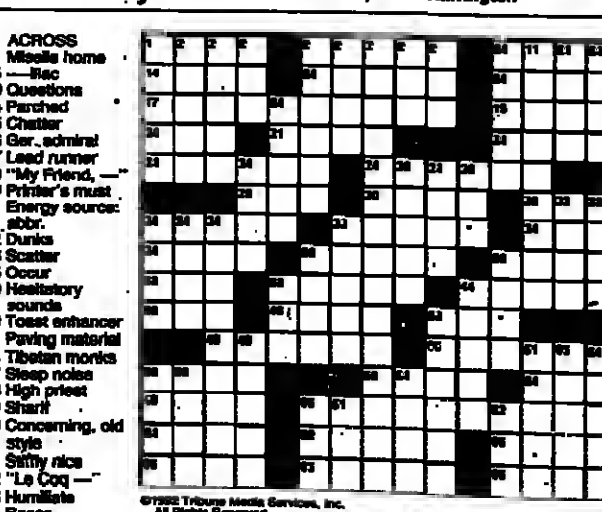
Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: USURY LATCH CLUMSY REALITY

Answer: What they called that team of rough, tough football players — THE "ALL-SCARS"

THE Daily Crossword by Hank Harrington



Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE	TOKYO CLOSE
Sterling Pound	1.6250	1.6265
Deutsche Mark	1.5012	1.5045
Swiss Franc	1.3430	1.3458
French Franc	5.0900	5.1045
Japanese Yen	120.50	121.00
European Currency Unit	1.2990	1.3011

European Currency Unit

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.18	3.46	3.50	3.62
Sterling Pound	8.06	7.87	7.57	7.12
Deutsche Mark	8.75	8.68	8.31	7.81
Swiss Franc	5.87	6.06	6.00	5.87
French Franc	9.93	9.81	9.50	9.12
Japanese Yen	3.93	3.81	3.62	3.65
European Currency Unit	10.56	10.56	10.06	9.62

Gold

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	342.65	6.70	Silver	5.74	0.82

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.681	0.683
Sterling Pound	1.1072	1.1127
Deutsche Mark	0.4523	0.4546
Swiss Franc	0.5055	0.5080
French Franc	0.1334	0.1341
Japanese Yen	0.5625	0.5653
Dutch Guilder	0.4018	0.4038
Swedish Krona	0.1200	0.1206
Italian Lira	0.0517	0.0520
Belgian Franc	0.02202	0.02213

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Baharaini Dinar	1.7880	1.8050
Lebanese Lira	0.02897	0.03150
Saudi Riyal	0.1813	0.1824
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2350	2.3100
Qatari Dinar	0.18485	0.1860
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2100
Qatari Riyal	1.7450	1.7540
UAE Dirham	0.18485	0.1860
Greek Drachma	0.3520	0.3650
Cypriot Pound	1.5050	1.5250

Index

Index	18/10/92	Close	19/10/92	Close
All-Share	152.51		152.95	
Banking Sector	116.00		116.60	
Insurance Sector	166.03		166.58	
Industry Sector	198.74		198.98	
Services Sector	220.47		220.44	

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One sterling	1.6285/95	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.2440/45	Canadian dollar
	1.5095/105	Deutschmarks
	1.6970/90	Dutch guilders
	1.3450/60	Swiss francs
	31.02/06	Belgian francs
	131.71/324	French francs
	121.35/45	Italian lire
	5.6550/650	Japanese yen
	6.1320/420	Swedish crowns
	5.7850/950	Norwegian crowns
One ounce of gold	\$342.60/343.10	Danish crowns

'Clintonomics' neither liberal nor conservative

Wall Street economists project Clinton victory

NEW YORK (R) — An overwhelming number of Wall Street economists surveyed by Reuters expect Bill Clinton to win the U.S. presidential election, but most expect growth to remain sluggish at least until mid-1993.

Of 30 senior economists questioned last week, 28 said they expect a Democratic victory, while one projected President George Bush would be reelected and one said he was unsure.

But while most economists expect a Clinton win on Nov. 3 to provide a badly needed boost to consumer confidence, the honeymoon is likely to be short.

Only five analysts said they expect gross domestic product (GDP) to hit a three per cent annual growth rate by mid-1993 — a level they say is needed to promote significant jobs growth.

Seven of the economists held that GDP will remain below three per cent until 1994 or longer, while several said the economy's prospects depend on what the government does to boost growth.

A few said the economy would probably recover by itself under the influence of low interest rates.

The economists who expect sluggish growth throughout 1993 tended to agree that the high level of public and private debt is the major impediment to full recovery. One economist projected full recovery would not take place until 1995.

"The government is going to face some monster problems in the 1990s," said Keith Johnson, an economist at Morgan Guaranty. "You can pump up the economy but you will be in the same soup as in the 1980s."

Asked what a new administration should make its top priority in its first 100 days in office, 27 of the economists suggested stimulating the economy, slashing the federal budget deficit or both.

But those favoring fiscal stimulus said any such plan should be temporary and followed quickly by action to reduce the budget deficit.

"I hope anybody who gets in would not try to do too much too quickly. The problems we face are more basic problems of long-term restructuring not solvable by fiscal policy," said Richard Peterson, chief economist at Continental Bank.

Many economists said spending on infrastructure projects such as roads and sewers would be the quickest way to add jobs and stimulate growth.

But Philip Braverman, chief economist at DKB Securities, said the government should first address sluggish consumer demand and the credit crunch preventing businesses from obtaining more loans.

He said even a small increase in America's \$8.5 trillion private sector debt could provide a big boost to the economy.

As for the government, debt

remains a dirty word for most economists. Any stimulus leading to "accelerations of spending should be temporary so the budget deficit is not lifted to a new plateau," said one.

"I think everything should be on the table" in terms of possible budget cuts, said Steven Ricchiuto, chief economist at Barclays de Zoete Wedd Government Securities Inc.

Mr. Clinton has gathered an eclectic group of economic advisers who believe they've found a third way to promote growth that's neither liberal nor conservative.

"Rebuilding prosperity will require a programme that goes beyond left and right to make fundamental changes," said Robert Shapiro, vice president at the Progressive Policy Institute think-tank and a member of Mr. Clinton's inner circle.

Mr. Clinton, who has a big lead over President Bush in the opinion polls with two weeks to go until the election, has called for big increases in public investment and more spending on training to help revitalize the economy.

He plans to pay for that with higher taxes on the wealthy and on foreign corporations — spawning Republican charges that his programme is a return to past Democratic Party policies of

tax and spend and government meddling in the economy.

"It's an incredible paradox that at the moment the whole world is rejecting government planning... Clinton believes... that we ought to be moving in the direction of having the federal government engage in economic planning, determining winners and losers," said Republican Senator Phil Gramm of Texas.

Mr. Clinton advisers reject those charges and say their approach is neither a return to the Democratic Party policies of the past nor a continuation of Mr. Bush's failed programme.

The advisers, who include a couple of Wall Street executives, several longtime friends of Mr. Clinton and a former aide of New York Governor Mario Cuomo, contend a new strategy is needed if America is to prosper in the 21st century.

"We like to call it an investment-led recovery plan that's good for the economy in the short and long term," said Gene Sperling, a former aide to Mr. Cuomo who acts as Mr. Clinton's official spokesman on economic policy issues.

Much of Mr. Clinton's programme is based on the ideas of Robert Reich, a Harvard University professor who has known the Democrat since they studied

together at Oxford University in England in the 1960s.

Mr. Reich argues in his book "The Work of Nations" that jobs and capital can be exported in a global economy, but that people cannot.

"In a global economy, many nations will share access to basic resources such as capital and technology," Mr. Shapiro wrote in a recent issue of the magazine "The New Democrat."

And so, the government's role in promoting a nation's competitiveness should focus on investing in resources that the country has to itself — principally its workforce, infrastructure and research and development — not on subsidising particular industries or activities.

Mr. Clinton's economic programme reflects that philosophy. He has backed the North American Free Trade Agreement between the United States, Mexico and Canada, despite fears in traditional liberal circles that it will lead to a loss of American jobs.

But the treaty must be accompanied by measures to protect the environment and retrain those workers who lose their jobs.

Mr. Clinton has also called for creation of a "rebuild America fund" that will pump \$20 billion in federal money annually over

the next four years into everything from roads and bridges to high-speed trains and new technologies.

"The key... is getting the investment share of the economy to rise," said Roger Altman, an economic adviser to Mr. Clinton and vice chairman of the Blackstone Group, a New York-based investment banking company.

Mr. Altman has been mentioned as a potential candidate for treasury secretary if Mr. Clinton wins the election and is one of two Wall Street executives in the Democrat's inner circle of economic advisers. The other is Robert Rubin, co-chairman of Goldman Sachs and Co. and a Democratic Party fundraiser.

The inner circle also includes several longtime friends and associates of the Arkansas governor besides Mr. Reich.

Both Ira Magaziner, president of SIS, Inc., a Rhode Island-based management consulting company, and Derek Shearer, professor at Occidental College in Los Angeles, know Mr. Clinton from his days as a student at Oxford.

"The first priority is to get the economy going again," Mr. Shearer said. "If you get that right, then you have the resources and public confidence to push ahead on other fronts."

N. Korea announces foreign investment laws

TOKYO (AP) — North Korea announced new foreign investment laws Tuesday in its latest move towards ending the hard-line communist regime's economic isolation.

North Korea's largely symbolic Supreme People's Assembly adopted the laws to expand the country's limited economic and technical exchanges, the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said in a report monitored in Tokyo.

North Korean officials told reporters visiting Pyongyang last spring that they were in the process of drafting a legal framework to enable foreign companies to operate in their nation's centralised economy.

Initiatives taken by the reclusive government in the past, including a joint venture law enacted in 1984, so far have produced minimal results, partly because of the lack of legal protection for investors.

A few North Koreans living in Japan have set up joint-venture garment factories and there are a few other foreign businessmen doing business in Pyongyang, but so far there is no sign of large-scale foreign investment in the country.

The new laws closely resemble

those passed in China to encourage capitalist investment while protecting the socialist system.

They allow foreigners to set up equity and contractual joint ventures in North Korea and to set up and run wholly foreign-owned companies in free economic and trade zones planned along the lines of China's booming trade zones, the KCNA report said.

It said a separate law on contractual joint ventures was intended for companies that produce goods for export, for tourism and service industries, and for promoting the introduction of advanced technology.

That law provides special tax incentives for joint ventures that import new technology and specifies that joint ventures will be allowed to remit profits overseas.

The law on foreign enterprises allows outsiders to set up firms in electronics, automation, machine-building, food-processing, clothing, transport, service and other industries, the news agency said.

The new laws allow foreign

investors to bring in needed technical and managerial staff, but require most management and employees to be North Koreans.

Like China, North Korea has said it wants to open its economy

while retaining its communist political system. The government has been under the iron-fisted grip of Kim Il Sung since Korea was divided into the communist North and pro-Western South in 1945.

Decisions by the former Soviet Union and by China to cut back on economic support and seek closer ties with South Korea have severely strained the North's economy, forcing Pyongyang to seek help elsewhere.

Reform-minded North Korean leaders have been particularly eager to attract investment from Japan, which in turn has long coveted the North's abundant mineral resources and may want to tap its cheap labour.

But foreign companies have shunned the hard-line Stalinist nation, which is years behind in paying debts for past deals.

Japanese businessmen who have travelled to the country say they see little reason to invest in a country where movement of goods and people is rigidly controlled and many citizens claim to have received their clothing and food aid gifts from Mr. Kim and his son and heir-apparent, Kim Jong Il.

The new laws guarantee the

legal rights of foreign investors and foreign-funded enterprises, which "shall not be nationalised or seized by the state," KCNA reported.

In case an inevitable situation makes it necessary to nationalise or seize those enterprises and assets, fair compensation shall be made for them," it said.

Kiyohiko Tanaka, managing director of the Japan-Korea Trade Association, said the new laws were a "first step," but most investors remain wary.

"We just don't have enough data about the real economic situation in the country, and neither do the North Koreans. Both sides have to study more to see if there are any merits to investing there," Mr. Tanaka said.

Political issues remain a key problem in opening the country to foreign investment. Few investors are willing to go ahead because of Japan and the United States' normalisation relations with Pyongyang, he added.

Negotiations on establishing diplomatic ties remain stalled by disagreements over the extent of inspections North Korea will accept to dispel suspicions that it is developing nuclear weapons.

Troubled Nigerian bank declared insolvent

High interest rates hit producers in Nigeria

LAGOS (R) — Industrialists in Nigeria have said that high interest rates were crippling productive activity and undermining business confidence in sub-Saharan Africa's biggest economy.

"The high interest rates are discouraging investment," Uzor Okaka, acting director general of the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria, told Reuters.

"What we are doing is systematically destroying the productive sector of the economy," he added.

Interest rates have been driven up because of a shortage of funds in the banking industry after the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) last month mopped up liquidity by issuing compulsory stabilisation securities.

On Sept. 22 and 25 the CBN issued stabilisation securities worth 7.4 billion naira (\$27.6 million) to mop up excess liquidity which producers and bankers blame on overspending by the military government.

The mop-up was the latest in a series of CBN cash withdrawals aimed at checking inflation, which is running at above 50 per cent, and stabilising the Naira's foreign exchange rates after a 41 per cent devaluation in March.

Bankers say the use of stabilisation securities, issued to banks without prior notice, creates unnecessary panic within the bank-

ing system as banks are sent searching for scarce funds.

Interbank rates — the rate at which banks lend to each other — have since risen above 70 per cent from less than 35 per cent earlier in the month. Bank lending rates to businesses have reached 50 per cent, from above 40 per cent two weeks ago.

Bankers say commercial and merchant banks are increasingly restricting themselves to short-term borrowing and lending as long term funds are difficult to find in an economy facing political and economic uncertainties.

Mr. Okaka said the prevailing interest rate regime was discouraging production as only currency speculators and traders could afford to borrow.

Small and medium scale producers in Nigeria are particularly dependent on funds from the banking system because most are undercapitalised and reluctant to use the capital market to raise funds, partly because of unwillingness to dilute family ownership structures.

The high cost of funds and foreign exchange was hampering industry's efforts to boost local capacity utilisation, now averaging around 30 per cent, Mr. Okaka said.

Cash-strapped producers are increasingly disillusioned and some are disinvesting, despite the government's six-year-old free

market economic reforms aimed at stimulating production in Africa's most populous nation.

"There is a complete loss of confidence. Producers are not sure of their future," Mr. Okaka said.

He said the problems facing the economy were partly due to poor implementation of the International Monetary Fund-backed reforms and the government's persistent fiscal indiscipline.

"The fiscal operation of the government is the source of excess liquidity," he said.

The government recorded a 14.5 billion naira (\$753 million) budget deficit in the first half of 1992 after promising to reverse a trend of overspending.

Last year, the budget deficit rose 62.8 per cent from 1990 to a record 35.31 billion naira (\$1.8 billion). This compared with a planned 100 million naira surplus for the calendar year.

Meanwhile, the National Bank of Nigeria (NBN), the country's oldest indigenous bank, has been declared insolvent and needs an injection of about two billion naira (\$102 million) to keep it alive, an official insurance body said Monday.

"It is completely insolvent. We have given the owners a task force report. It is now up to them to see if they can put up the required capital in time to save

the bank," a spokesman for the Nigerian Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC) said.

Banking sources said it was unlikely the cash would be found and that NBN, in operation since the mid-1950s and owned by the southern states of Oyo, Ondo, Ogun and Osmu, would probably close after two years in crisis.

The CBN took direct control of NBN in January because of the bank's deteriorating financial condition. NBN was unable to meet depositors' demands.

The central bank, which asked NDIC and a task force to take control of NBN's business on its behalf, said at the time that NBN had failed to respond to measures initiated by regulatory authorities to resolve the problems.

The NDIC, which oversees banks' deposit liabilities, said the owners had not been given a time limit to save NBN with an injection of about two billion naira.

An NBN official, quoted by the government-controlled weekly Business Times, told governors of the owner states the amount needed — enough to float 40 new banks — was unlikely to be forthcoming to resuscitate the "mortal, insolvent" bank.

NBN was among nine commercial banks which the NDIC classified as distressed in 1990, after seven in 1989. There are about 120 banks of all kinds in Nigeria.

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Bosnian Muslims accept reduced authority

UNPROFOR accuses Serbs of detaining general in Sarajevo

SARAJEVO (R) — The General commanding United Nations peacekeepers in Sarajevo was briefly detained at gunpoint in the besieged city Tuesday, prompting a sharp protest to Bosnia's Serb leadership.

A statement from the U.N. peacekeeping force (UNPROFOR) said General Hosain Abdul Razek and three of his staff were held by gunmen for 10 minutes Monday afternoon on the road to the city airport after a dispute over identity papers.

"UNPROFOR is protesting to the Serb leadership over this flagrant denial of freedom of movement for U.N. forces in the city," the statement said.

The incident was the first major dispute on the airport road since it was blocked by Muslim gunmen last Thursday.

The road is a vital conduit for airlifted aid supplies which the U.N. have been distributing to the city.

UNPROFOR said Gen. Abdul Razek, travelling with senior political officials Mik Magunson and two other aides in an armoured car, was stopped by 10 heavily-armed Serb gunmen who had stopped an armoured personnel carrier mounted with machineguns across their path.

"The Serbs refused to be satisfied with the identity documents presented at the windows of the vehicles and demanded to look inside," the statement said.

"In an effort to defuse the situation, the UNPROFOR sector commander permitted the troops to look inside the vehicles but not to carry out a search. The troops then allowed the UNPROFOR vehicles to continue on their journey."

Muslim gunmen blocked the road Thursday, saying they

feared a new offensive by Serb fighters who have been battling for control of Sarajevo since April.

But it was cleared again Sunday after UNPROFOR agreed to supervise security along the route during daylight hours.

The News Agency of the Bosnian Serbs, SRNA, said Tuesday that the Serb side rejected any UNPROFOR policing of the road, saying it was in the centre of a combat zone.

Serb fighters made their presence felt again Tuesday morning when three armed Serb gunmen jumped in front of Reuters' car and another vehicle at the same point on the road.

They took journalists to a police station in nearby Ilidza.

The defiance of U.N. peacekeepers by Serb gunmen in Sarajevo followed a show of strength by Serb police in Belgrade against the federal government.

Armed police loyal to Serb leader Slobodan Milosevic kept control of the federal Interior Ministry building Tuesday in a clear show of defiance to federal Prime Minister Milan Panic.

Serb officials have claimed their seizure of the building Sunday was a mere matter of asserting property rights.

But there were few doubts in Belgrade that the move was really a flexing of Serbian muscles in preparation for overt confrontation with the Yugoslav Federal government.

Whereas Mr. Milosevic is largely seen as fuelling Serbia's nationalist aspirations, Mr. Panic and Federal President Dobrica Cosic have advocated compromise in pursuit of peace.

Mr. Cosic, attending talks on Yugoslavia in Geneva, agreed

German Greens founder, companion found dead

BONN (R) — German Greens Party founder Petra Kelly, a pioneer environmentalist, and companion Gerd Bastian were discovered dead in their Bonn home in a case of murder, suicide or both, the investigating prosecutor said Tuesday.

Presiding prosecutor Wolfgang Komp said the bodies of Ms. Kelly, 44, and former West German Major General Bastian, 69, were found in their modest apartment Monday night after relatives reported not hearing from them for some time.

"It could be a joint suicide, a murder with suicide or murder," Mr. Komp told reporters shortly after midnight outside the tidy house in Bonn's residential Tannenbusch district.

The partially decomposed bodies apparently lay in the flat for days before being discovered. Mr. Komp said there were wounds on the bodies but declined to specify whether a weapon or letter had been found.

Police planned a news conference later Tuesday on the autopsy results.

Ms. Kelly spent time in hospital earlier this year for treatment of what she called circulatory problems.

Ms. Kelly, a tireless advocate of environmentalism and nuclear disarmament with a flare for publicity and a hyperkinetic eloquence, became the Greens' best-known face after the party first entered parliament in the former West Germany in 1983.

Gen. Bastian, her companion since the early parliament days, joined the Greens after being forcibly retired from the army in 1980 for opposing NATO's deployment of U.S. medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe against the Soviet Union.

Russia suspends troop pullout from Baltics

MOSCOW (R) — Russia said Tuesday it was temporarily suspending the withdrawal of some of its troops from the Baltic states because there was nowhere for the men to live.

The move appears to be in line with the Kremlin's tougher stance towards the Baltic states which it says are discriminating against their Russian minorities.

"The withdrawal is temporarily halted until all questions linked to the settlement (of the troops) at new locations have been resolved," Russian Defence Ministry said in a statement.

A ministry spokesman said some troops would be withdrawn in line with an earlier plan, but with nowhere to go would stay. He gave no figures.

The statement did not say whether the withdrawal of troops from all three Baltic states — Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania — would be affected by the decision.

Moscow is already struggling to accommodate thousands of troops being pulled out of East European countries. Russia has asked the Baltic states help to build accommodation for the troops in Russia to accelerate the withdrawal.

About 130,000 Soviet troops were based in the Baltics when the three countries won their independence last year.

The U.S. State Department says about 40 per cent of the soldiers have already been pulled out. Russia has promised not to send any more new conscripts to the region.

Russia, opposed to the policy of the former Soviet Union, helped the Baltic states win independence after last year's failed hardline coup against Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

But initial elation has soured on both sides amid rows about how fast the former Soviet troops could leave and over political and economic differences.

The former Soviet troops are under Russian control.

Russia has signed an agreement with Lithuania under which all Russian troops will leave the country by the end of August, 1993. But no deal has yet been sealed with Estonia or Latvia.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin said earlier this month Moscow would refuse to sign any accords on withdrawing troops from these two states until they agreed to guarantee minority rights for ethnic Russians.

Conservative Vice-President Alexander Rutskoy threatened economic sanctions against Estonia.

Estonia and Latvia have both introduced tough citizenship laws which Moscow says have effectively reduced their big Russian-speaking populations to second-class status.

The 40 per cent Russian minority in Estonia was barred from voting in national elections earlier this month.

At the United Nations in New York, Russia has accused the two states of discriminating against their Russian minorities. Both states rejected the accusations and have asked U.N. to help speed up the troop withdrawals.

Interfax News Agency said the Defence Ministry statement was issued after a meeting of top officials in Moscow.

The agency said 24,000 more troops had been scheduled to leave the region in 1992. But thousands of officers were already homeless in Russian regions where these troops were being sent.

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Diana's father leaves estate worth £90 million

LONDON (R) — Earl Spencer, father of Britain's Princess Diana, left an estate worth nearly £90 million (\$146 million) in his will published Monday. Diana, wife of heir to the throne Prince Charles, and her sister were left "mementoes" and Diana's two children Prince Harry and Prince William will each get £1,000 (\$1,622). The Earl died in March from a heart attack, aged 68. His widow Raine, Countess Spencer, received his cash and investments held by Global Asset Management, an annuity of £10,000 (\$16,220) and the contents of his houses. David Robinson, solicitor acting for the executors, said "a very high proportion" of the value of the estate was accounted for by the contents of Althorp, the family's ancestral home, which had yet to be worked out with the Inland Revenue, he added.

Frenchman left naked by ape

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — A huge orang-utan ape stripped a French tourist as he was strolling in a Malaysian park on Borneo Island, an official said Tuesday. The 14-year-old male orang-utan grabbed the startled tourist and pulled off his pants, shirt and underwear as he stood motionless next to his wife, the national Bernama News Agency quoted the official as saying. The ape fled into the woods with the clothes, the agency said. The tourist ran naked to the park office and borrowed clothes from a group of tourists.

No Sex please, we're Australian

SYDNEY (R) — Australia's second largest bookstore chain Tuesday banned the sale of Madonna's book *Sex* after management peeked inside the sealed book. Dymocks, with 32 stores across Australia, admitted it was giving up lucrative sales from the book which depicts the American singer in erotic poses. "Our customers expect a certain standard at a Dymocks bookstore and for this reason we will not be selling *Sex*," said Dymocks' Managing Director Ken Terry in a statement. Australia's largest bookstore chain Angus and Robertson said Tuesday it had discussed banning the book, but rejected the idea and would start sales on Oct. 21, its worldwide release date.

Man survives 15 days on Arctic island eating snow

COPENHAGEN (AP) — A Danish fisherman survived for 15 days on a barren, Arctic island off Greenland by living under his upturned boat and eating snow, police said Monday. When Greenlandic fishermen first spotted Henrik Carlsen Sunday, they thought he was dead. "People here don't want to get involved when they see a dead body... So they rushed back to alert me," said Police Constable Mads Christensen in Upernivik, Greenland. "The fisherman didn't get close enough to see he was alive." Two hours later, police arrived at the island 450 kilometres north of the Arctic Circle and found the 30-year-old Dane. He was suffering from exhaustion, had frost-bitten feet, and had lost 20 kilos (44 pounds), Mr. Christensen said. Mr. Carlsen stopped at the island to seek shelter after he lost his way and his boat ran out of fuel. A search for him was abandoned five days after he disappeared during a fishing trip on Oct. 3. On the way to the clinic in Upernivik, Mr. Carlsen told Mr. Christensen he ate snow to survive because there was nothing else on the snow-covered island.

Finland court starts row with fine for word Russki

HELSINKI (R) — A court in neutral Finland has made it expensive to use the derogatory slang term "Russki" about Russians. Helsinki City Court fined a Finnish market trader 10 days' pay for using the word in a row with a fellow dealer, a Russian-born citizen. The ruling that "Russki" was a term of abuse could have some odd results, Finland's biggest newspaper said. Finnish market places have become a venue for Russians who bring goods, including illicit alcoholic beverages, across the border to sell for hard currency.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

8 injured in Moscow grenade attack

MOSCOW (R) — A grenade attack has injured eight people near the Moscow branch of McDonald's but police said Tuesday it was not aimed at the restaurant, a leading symbol of Western consumerism in Russia's capital. A senior police officer said two drunks, one with a history of clashes with the police, threw a grenade at Police Station Number 108 on a street leading onto Moscow's central Pushkin Square Monday evening. "The explosion was directed against the police station. It had nothing to do with McDonald's whatsoever," Yuri Fedoseyev, head of the Moscow Police Criminal Investigations Department, told reporters. "It was an ordinary crime... we do not know what the motive was," he said. Security Ministry spokesman Alexander Mikhailov told Interfax News Agency that the RGD-5 army grenade had bounced off window bars and landed on the pavement, where it exploded, shattering several windows in the building. The most seriously hurt victim, a five-year-old girl from Afghanistan with head and hand wounds, was not in any immediate danger, Mr. Fedoseyev said.

Hong Kong governor arrives in China

PEKING (R) — Hong Kong Governor Chris Patten arrived in Peking Tuesday with the daunting task of trying to sell China the idea of democracy for the British colony before it returns to Chinese rule in 1997. Peking has already slammed the door on Patten's sales pitch, with angry denunciations of his plans to expand Hong Kong's voting base coming almost daily from Chinese-controlled newspapers in the territory. "We'll have some important discussions during the next couple of days, but the most important thing is, I think, to get to know one another," Mr. Patten told reporters at Peking Airport. "There's a great deal to do, and I'm sure we will manage to accomplish it successfully."

15 killed in Soviet plane crash

MOSCOW (AP) — A small plane crashed in northern Russia, killing 15 people, officials said. The crash of the Antonov-28 plane occurred near the town of Ust Nym, about 1,100 kilometres northeast of Moscow, according to Russian television. One child was among the 15 dead, the report said. A spokesman for the Russian Air Transport Department confirmed the television report but declined to give any additional details. A government commission was appointed to investigate the crash. The plane, which has two turboprop engines, can carry 17 passengers and a crew of two.

15 die in Taiwan hotel blaze

TAIPEI (R) — Fire swept through a hotel in the southern Taiwan city of Kaohsiung before dawn Tuesday, killing 15 people and injuring 13 in a suspected arson attack, police said. The boy-friend of a hotel employee was suspected of setting the fire and police were questioning him, a spokesman for the city police said by telephone. He declined to elaborate. About 200 firefighters fought the blaze for two hours and rescued dozens of guests from the seven-storey Hwa Chi Hotel. Firefighters found nine bodies at the hotel and six other people were pronounced dead at hospitals. The dead, five men and 10 women, either burned to death or suffocated except for one who jumped to her death from the fourth floor, police said. All were Taiwanese.

Japanese boy shot in U.S.

BATON ROUGE, LA. (AP) — A Japanese high school exchange student who knew little English was shot to death when he stopped at the wrong house while looking for a party and did not heed the homeowner's order to "freeze." Capt. Bob Shortess of the East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Department, said Yoshihiro Hattori was shot in the chest and died a short time later. Hattori, 16, and a friend knocked at a door of the home of Rodney Pears, who came to the door armed with a .44-caliber Magnum revolver and told the boys to freeze. When one of the boys moved, Mr. Pears fired, Shortess said. It happened at a house only a few doors away from the Halloween party the boys were trying to find, he said. Members of the family who had hosted Hattori in Baton Rouge since August said he might not have known enough English to understand Mr. Pears. "I don't think if the man said 'freeze' Yoshi would understand what that means," said Holley Haymaker, a member of the family. "He had trouble understanding English, and I'm sure he didn't know what 'freeze' meant. She said her son, the friend accompanying Hattori, had seen that Hattori apparently did not understand. Hattori was moving toward Pears when he was shot," she said.

RENAMO rebels seize Mozambican port — radio

MAPUTO (R) — Guerrillas of the former RENAMO rebel movement have stormed and occupied Mozambique's northern port of Angoche, Nampula's provincial governor said.

Alfredo Gamito was quoted by Mozambique's state-run radio as saying the Mozambican National Resistance (RENAMO) movement took over the coastal town at 7 p.m. (1700 GMT) Sunday.

The attack followed a ceasefire accord, signed in Rome on Oct. 4 between President Joaquim Chissano and RENAMO leader Afonso Dhlakama, to end the 16-year civil war, which has claimed the lives of around a million people.

Mr. Gamito, speaking in the provincial capital, Nampula, said no one was killed in the assault but a number of people were slightly injured as they fled. He gave no further details.

Jerónimo Malaguetta, head of RENAMO's military mission, refused to comment on the situation in Angoche, the Portuguese News Agency (LUSA) reported Monday. It quoted him as saying he had to wait for the delegation's

Clinton, Perot share good news in post-debate polls

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Ross Perot, the candidate with the least to lose in Monday's presidential election, apparently gained the most according to post-debate polls Monday night.

In a CNN-USA Today poll, Gallup asked 423 registered voters which candidate did the best job. Thirty-seven per cent said Mr. Perot, 28 per cent each for Mr. Bush and Mr. Clinton. Twelve per cent said the debate made them switch their preference, and more than half of them switched to Mr. Perot.

Mr. Clinton did better in an ABC News poll, with 35 per cent rating him best in the debate, 30 per cent Mr. Perot and 23 per cent Mr. Bush. Those polled were 821 registered voters who saw or heard the debate.

An ABC News poll found 36 per cent regarded Mr. Clinton as the winner, 26 per cent said Mr. Perot won and 21 per cent gave the victory to Mr. Bush. Twelve per cent called it a tie and the rest didn't know.

The 710 registered voters in the ABC survey had been polled previously about their presidential preference. After they watched the debate, their support of Mr. Bush was unchanged at 29 per cent. Mr. Clinton's support dropped slightly from 52 per cent to 48 per cent, and enough undecided voters switched to Mr. Perot to raise his support from 11 per cent to 19 per cent among those polled.

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